

# THE TIMES

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# War declared on 'cheating' Tories

By PHILIP WEBSTER  
POLITICAL EDITOR

**LABOUR** and the Liberal Democrats have refused to co-operate with the Government in all future Commons divisions after accusing it of cheating in Monday's fishing vote.

The spectre of ministers regularly being dragged back to Westminster from overseas visits and sick MPs being wheeled in for crucial votes throughout the final months of the present parliament faced ministers after the opposition parties announced they were ending "pairing" deals with

the Government. Amid unprecedented accusations of breaching the faith and trust on which the running of Parliament depends, it emerged that the Conservatives had "paired" three of their MPs in Monday's vote with three Labour MPs and three Liberal Democrat MPs. Three Tories had simply "taken out" six Opposition MPs.

The result of the "double counting" was that the Government's majority of 11

should have been eight. What compounded the outrage of Donald Dewar, the Labour Chief Whip, and Archy Kirkwood, his Liberal counterpart, was that if the nine Ulster Unionists had voted against the Government rather than abstained it would have lost by one vote.

And they emphasised at Westminster last night that when the two deals were done ministers had no way of knowing which way the Unionists' would vote. The

Government therefore faced accusations from all sides that it had cheated to avoid being defeated. Its punishment will be a prolonged period of guerrilla warfare leading up to the election.

Pairing is the longstanding convenience at Westminster under which the Government matches one of its own MPs who needs to be absent with an Opposition MP in a similar situation. They then cancel each other out in the vote.

The matter came to light

when the Labour and Liberal Democrat whips checked their figures. They had been unable to understand why the Government's majority was so comfortable, because all the other minority party MPs had turned up.

They were astonished to find that some of their MPs had been paired with the same Tories.

It was being suggested last night that the practice of double-counting may have happened several times before

but had not been discovered through lack of cross-checking. At the centre of the controversy last night was Derek Conway, the Conservative Sir Keith Speed should be paired with Sir Russell Johnston, Mr Sweeney with Paddy Ashdown, and Mr George Mudie, his Labour opposite number, and Mr Kirkwood.

As the tension rose in the Commons on Monday afternoon the Labour agreement was completed when Mr Speed and Richard Shepherd were offered as pairs for the ill Martin Redmond and Jimmy Dunnachie. Mr Dewar pro-

duced a "smoking memo" — a handwritten note from Mr Conway to Mr Mudie, dated Monday. It read: "George. Two further names as promised — K Speed, R Shepherd. 4/4. Yours Derek."

Several hours after the accusations were levelled there was no official government reaction last night.

But privately senior whips did not attempt to deny the deals. It was said that Labour and the Liberal Democrats were being "bad losers", and that if the Labour and Liberal

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Leading article page 17

# Saunders trial was unfair, Euro court says

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT, AND CAROL MIDDLETON

TWO HUNDRED fraud prosecutions appeared to be at risk last night after the European Court of Human Rights ruled that the trial of the former Guinness chief Ernest Saunders was unfair.

The court said that evidence Mr Saunders was forced to give during a City investigation should not have been used against him in his trial in 1990. By sixteen to four, the judges said that the use of the material amounted to "a remarkable departure from one of the basic principles of fair procedure".

But the court rejected his demands for £4.5 million compensation and reduced his claim for nearly £240,000 in costs and expenses to £75,000.

The Government expressed dismay at the ruling and said that it was examining the court's decision to determine whether the law should be changed. The Serious Fraud Office said that it would resist all attempts to quash Mr Saunders' conviction or to award him compensation in Britain.

Department of Trade and Industry officials have identified some 200 pending cases in various stages of investigation where material has been similarly obtained, and which may now be at risk if it cannot be used to support a prosecution.

Mr Saunders, who was later involved in a clash with a television reporter over his apparent recovery from the irreversible Alzheimer's disease, said after the ruling:



Newscaster Jon Snow

that his diagnosis had been wrong and Mr Saunders, who has since put his illness down to stress, has gone on to carve out a lucrative career as a consultant.

Yesterday his victory press conference at St James's Club, Piccadilly, descended into farce as his spokesman became involved in a slanging match with the Channel 4 newscaster Jon Snow. Mr Saunders, an imposing, sunburned figure of 21st, looked bemused but stayed silent as George Devlin, a self-styled human rights consultant, suggested that Mr Snow leave after he repeatedly asked Mr Saunders whether he considered himself a crook and about his apparent "recovery" from Alzheimer's disease.

Mr Devlin, who has advised the former Guinness chairman for six years, insisted: "Mr Saunders is not a crook". The DTI investigation had been "real Star Chamber stuff" and extremely intimidatory, with interrogations in windowless rooms.

But he refused to let journalists address his client directly and interrupted virtually all questions to avoid, he said, prejudicing possible further legal action. When Mr Saunders was asked about his health and whether he had dined the taxpayer and the medical profession by feigning dementia, Mr Devlin said: "A doctor gave a diagnosis and that doctor has publicly stated that he was wrong on his diagnosis of his condition. If

I have any problems with that I suggest you take it up with him."

But Mr Snow, whose 85-year-old mother, Joan, suffers from Alzheimer's and lives in a nursing home, declared Mr Devlin a "fraudster" for calling a press conference and not allowing the subject to speak.

Ernest Saunders, smiling but silent after his European court victory yesterday

"This is absurd, it is a non-sense", Mr Snow said. "There he is, the only person in the world to have recovered from Alzheimer's and he is not even able to speak for himself." He told Mr Devlin: "You are not a civil rights man, you are a denial of free speech man. You have stood squarely in the way of perfectly decent questioning."

A pre-arranged interview with the BBC was also called off after Mr Saunders said he did not want to be asked any questions other than his reaction to the judgment.

Law may change, page 4

## Judge complains

A judge at Truro Crown Court complained that 46 forms had had to be filled in to satisfy the "paper-lust" of bureaucrats and bring to court a youth he was sentencing for murder.

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## New £2 will be coin of two colours

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE Treasury yesterday unveiled Britain's new £2 coin — the first to use two colours. It is embellished with a design tracing technological development from the Iron Age to the Internet.

The reverse of the £2 piece, to go into circulation in November, was designed by a Norfolk art teacher — Bruce Ruskin of the Flegg High School at Martham. His work was chosen from 1,200 entries in open competition.

Mr Ruskin's choice of theme was deemed especially appropriate, the Royal Mint said, because it will be using all its most modern production techniques to have minted

50p coins, and the outer band in nickel-brass, a formula slightly different from that of the £1 coin.

The £2 coin is larger than the £1 one, measuring 28.4mm in diameter, compared with 22.5mm.

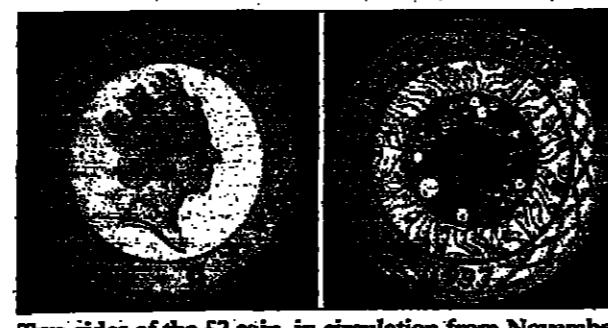
Mr Ruskin's design is an admiring

winner.

The new £2 circulating coin

will be available in collector versions in gold, silver and base metal from the Royal Mint in the new year.

To make the coin more difficult to forge, the image seen on the centre depends



Two sides of the £2 coin, in circulation from November

on the angle of vision. Its milled edge bears an inscription: "Standing on the Shoulders of Giants", Newton's words acknowledging his debt to other scientists.

Though the coin will be the first £2 denomination to enter general circulation, millions of £2 coins have been minted in six commemorative designs since 1986, when one commemorated that year's Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh.

The commemorative coins are issued to banks and Post Offices at face value and are legal tender," Graham Dyer of the Royal Mint said yesterday. "It was not our intention that they should be used as spending money, but quite a number have been."

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will be available in collector versions in gold, silver and base metal from the Royal Mint in the new year.

City moves afoot, page 41

ARTS ..... 35-37

CHESS & BRIDGE ..... 41

COURT & SOCIAL ..... 18

## Manchester loses out to Wembley

WEMBLEY has been named as the site for the new national stadium and Manchester, its main rival, has been given the consolation prize of £60 million towards the cost of a stadium for the Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh.

The long-awaited decision to plump for the "Venue of Legends" ahead of the bid by Manchester was confirmed by United Kingdom Sports Council chairman, Sir Rodney Walker, in London yesterday.

Now it has the chance to bid for the World Cup, the Olympic Games and the athletics World Cup in the next century. National Lottery funding will provide almost half of the £210-£230 million facelift for the most famous sporting site in the country.

City moves afoot, page 41

ARTS ..... 35-37

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# Jackal questioned over attack on ex-M&S chief

By JOANNA BALE AND BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

BRITISH police yesterday questioned Carlos the Jackal, the jailed terrorist mastermind in Paris, over the shooting of a former Marks & Spencer chairman and the bombing of a London bank in the early 1970s.

Two Scotland Yard officers travelled from London to interview him at a law court after a previous attempt to question him founder last month when he refused to cooperate. The Venezuelan-born convict — real name Illich Ramirez Sanchez — did not admit involvement in the attacks and dismissed the investigations as "Zionist provocations".

The Yard officers focussed on the attempted assassination in December 1973 of Joseph Steiff, the late M&S chairman, outside his London home, and on the bombing in January 1974 of the Israeli Embassy Bank in the City.

A Yard spokeswoman said: "Two officers are currently in France liaising with the French authorities as part of routine inquiries. Nothing new has emerged."

**SOUTH SEA PEARL PENDANT WITH DIAMOND FROM £1,500**

**TAHITIAN BLACK PEARL STRAND FROM £2,000**

**WHITE SOUTH SEA PEARL STRAND FROM £13,000**

**TAHITIAN BLACK PEARL AND DIAMOND DROP EARRINGS FROM £4,500**

**SOUTH SEA PEARL EARRINGS FROM £1,200**

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## Pairing proves scandals never come singly

WATCHING the debate on the Stalking Bill sat Jeff Ennis (Lab), the new-boy by-election victor from Barnsley East. He was almost alone on the Opposition benches. He looked totally bewildered. Perhaps he was too frightened to go anywhere else.

His fears are justified. At least the lights are on in the Chamber. The dark corridors of Westminster are far scarier. One of the curiosities of this administration's dying weeks has been the torchlight beamings into corners rarely illuminated before.

First there was David Willets blinking in the glare, pencil in hand, whip's note before him. And now the light

shines into MPs' "pairing" arrangements. Let me explain them...

Pairing is normally a long-term arrangement a Tory MP and a Labour MP arrange to consult each other regularly and to pair on votes where it suits both to absent. But ad hoc arrangements may be made for a particular vote, a sort of one-night stand. A Tory cannot normally register a Liberal Democrat as a pair, but in exceptional votes where what counts is the headline figure of all opposition votes combined, this might happen.

Pairing is not normally arranged through the whips but directly between MP and MP, then "registered" with the

**MATTHEW PARRIS**  
POLITICAL SKETCH

whips' messengers — servants of the House, good men doing bad men's dirty work. They inhabit cupboards on each side of the Members' Lobby and deserve their MBEs.

An MP alerts them to his pairing plans in advance, seeking their approval. They check lists. If there are no problems, the whips' messengers rubber-stamp the plans. But they are answerable to the whips, who intervene in tricky or unusual situations. Problems are referred up. "Pair-

ing" whips from both sides meet regularly to confirm lists and consider awkward cases. "I've got a backbencher on his deathbed in East Anglia; whom can you offer me?"

A Tory could not have paired simultaneously with both a Labour and a Liberal Democrat MP and simply registered this; the messengers would have checked with their bosses. Of course, nothing would be easier than to cheat. You can do it by more straightforward means than

on the following calculation: that a government defeat after the European fisheries debate would have been even worse news than the allegation of cheating; and that there was a chance that the opposition whips might not spot the sharp practice.

Indeed it is whispered that the ruse may have been used before, without the Labour whips — in the past an often dozy bunch — spotting it. Donald Dewar may simply be the first Opposition Chief Whip to notice, talk to the Liberals, and compare notes. The Tories will just have to brazen it out; for apologies will achieve little. Mr Dewar is unlikely to call a ceasefire.

## Howard refuses to reopen 'tainted' cases against IRA

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL HOWARD announced yesterday that the cases of 14 convicted IRA terrorists would not be reopened following an investigation into explosives contamination at a government scientific laboratory.

The Home Secretary told MPs that an independent inquiry into evidence had found that samples examined at the laboratory had not been affected by a contaminated centrifuge machine. But he said lawyers for 13 men and a dead woman, convicted of some of the most serious IRA bombing attacks in recent years, could make further representations about the convictions.

Mr Howard was speaking after a report by Brian Caddy, director of the Forensic Science Institute at Strathclyde University, into contamination at the Forensic Explosives Laboratory at Fort Halstead in Kent. It concluded that the results had produced a true measure of the presence of the explosive RDX, which is found in Semtex.

Mr Howard said: "We note Professor Caddy's key conclusion that the safety of criminal convictions is not in question as a result of the discovery of the contaminated centrifuge."

since its installation. It was a "scientific oversight which is unacceptable and is to be much criticised".

The report, which added that the consequences of the contamination could have been potentially disastrous, made 18 recommendations, including tighter procedures and changes to existing practices and equipment at the laboratory. The Government has accepted 17 of them.

His most far-reaching recommendation was the creation of an independent Inspectorate of Forensic Science to monitor the laboratories. Mr Howard said that he accepted that recommendation in principle, but would weigh up its merits against the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice's suggestion of the creation of an advisory council on forensic science.

Sean McNulty, an English-born IRA recruit whose case was one of those studied, was sentenced to 25 years in 1994 after being found guilty of conspiring to bomb an oil terminal and gas works on Tyneside. David Hammond, his solicitor, said he would be seeing if the contamination represented additional grounds for appeal.

President Clinton attempted to put new life into the Irish peace process yesterday as he joined John Bruton, the Taoiseach in demanding an IRA ceasefire in Ulster. "We can't make peace until we end violence... I want to reiterate my call for the IRA to institute a ceasefire in words as well as deeds." Mr Clinton said, in his first detailed comments on Ireland since his re-election. "If they do that I am convinced that Sinn Fein will be invited to participate in the talks."

Professor Caddy began his inquiry after traces of RDX were discovered in a piece of machinery at the laboratory in March. His 43-page report, which reviewed all the scientific data in 124 cases between 1988-1996 in which RDX was found, criticised quality assurance tests and other omissions. His own tests found that the explosive traces could have had no "observable effect" on the relevant samples. But he found that the centrifuge had not been the object of a test

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His most far-reaching recommendation was the creation of an independent Inspectorate

# Life sentence for loveless loner who murdered girl

BY DANIEL MCGROarty



Claire Hood: was stalked as she played truant

A BROODING college misfit who raped and murdered a schoolgirl after stalking her for months was inadvertently exposed by his mother.

Neil Owen was jailed for life yesterday after being convicted of the brutal attack on Claire Hood. The 20-year-old loner, who had never had a girlfriend, strangled the teenager in woods near their homes after carefully planning how to ambush her when she next played truant.

After the five-week trial at Cardiff Crown Court, it was disclosed that Owen had been accidentally trapped by his mother when police called during one of the biggest genetic fingerprinting operations.

The detectives had come to conduct a DNA test on Owen's younger brother. But Maureen Owen stopped the police as they were about to leave and volunteered: "Why not test my other two sons as well?"

The court was told that Owen retained his composure, knowing that the saliva sample could incriminate him. When, a year and nine days after the murder, police returned to his home in St Mellons, he said: "I've been waiting for you to come."

He had rehearsed an elaborate fiction about a secret three-month affair with the girl. When questioned he said that they had had sex in Cath Cobb woods when she skipped lessons at Romsey High School, and that Claire was alive when he left her that afternoon in January 1995.

The prosecution described him as "a desperate and devious young man" who tried to lie his way to freedom, caring nothing for the girl or her reputation. One detective said last night: "He was a ticking timebomb who turned to sexual fantasies and then murder when he could not get a girlfriend."

Pam Bennett, 33, mother of the dead girl, who saw the jury deliver its unanimous verdict yesterday, said: "I am quite happy with the sentence, but I won't be happy until Owen is dead and in his grave." Mrs Bennett, who has another daughter, Sarah, aged 14, would never forgive Owen for the "absurd lies" he had told about Claire.

The court was told that Owen

had boasted about the killing to his brother David as they watched a television reconstruction of the girl's last moments, but later claimed that he had been joking. After testing more than 2,100 youths and men, however, detectives found that there was a one in 160 million chance of the killer being anyone other than Owen.

He became obsessed by Claire when he walked past her house each morning on his way to college to resit the GCSE exams he had failed. He would regularly spy on her bedroom window at night.

Owen, who was hooked on computer war games and kept a hoard of pornography in his bedroom, chose to carry out his attack beneath the twisted branches of a dead tree, known locally by court

ing couples as "the love log". He stalked Claire as she went to buy cigarettes instead of going to school, and followed her to the woods which he had learned were her regular hiding place when playing truant.

The girl fainted as he grabbed her, but came round as Owen was raping her so he strangled her and waited until evening to roll her semi-naked body into a stream. When detectives found the body, there was a crumpled page of homework in her pocket on a poem about murder, called *The Suspect*.

Owen's mother sat alone in court yesterday as her son was sentenced by Mr Justice Buckley. Last night Roy Morgan, Owen's solicitor, said that there would be an appeal against conviction.



Owen: told court that he had an affair with girl

## Murder case judge condemns 'paper lust' bureaucracy

BY ADRIAN LEE

A SENIOR judge yesterday attacked the "paper lust" of legal bureaucrats as he sentenced a youth for murder.

Mr Justice Rougier said he was appalled that the teenager, Darren Lawrence, had not been sent to court previously. The 17-year-old was found guilty at Truro Crown Court of murdering Douglas Holman, a retired nurse, of Camborne, Cornwall.

The judge said: "I am informed that if a young person of Darren Lawrence's age is to be prosecuted for an act of violence then no fewer than 46 – yes, 46 – different forms have to be filled in to fulfil the paper lust of the bureaucratic element in our criminal justice system. This is grotesque."

Ordering the teenager to be detained at Her Majesty's Pleasure, he called for change. "It is to be hoped those who exercise authority will agree with me that the safety of the public and the maintenance of law and order are more important than the proliferation of desk jobs and the consequential paperwork and will take appropriate action and swiftly."

He said some blagie must lie with the prosecuting authorities but "it is not difficult

to see how it was that, with their limited resources other prosecutions were more important". The medical and psychiatric reports in the trial amounted to £50 pages.

During the seven-day trial the court was told how Lawrence had been in trouble with the authorities since the age of five. While living in a family centre in 1995 Lawrence had been involved in 28 incidents of violence or threatened violence and had been cautioned seven times by police.

The judge expressed astonishment that charges had not been brought earlier. His psychopathic disorder might then have been spotted. It was not discovered until he was on remand at Rampton.

The judge asked Detective Inspector Howard Stevens of Devon and Cornwall police: "How many times are the youth of Cornwall allowed to assault other people before being brought to court?"

Mr Holman was killed at his home with a screwdriver while members of his family sat in a neighbouring room, the court was told. A 15-year-old was cleared by the jury which rejected Lawrence's plea of manslaughter.

Detective Superintendent

David Haverly, of the Trials Issues Group, which is responsible for formulating prosecution documents, said: "It is unhelpful to suggest it is bureaucracy for the sake of it."

He said the number of forms involved could approach 40 if non-prosecution documents, such as fingerprint and property records, were included.

A Crown Prosecution Service spokeswoman said a simple case could involve as few as five prosecution forms. A juvenile case would add another two forms. "There are no unnecessary forms," she said. "We are always working to improve the system." Other prosecution sources said privately that they were astonished by the judge's remarks.

Mr Justice Rougier, 64, has spoken out in the past. He once admitted sentencing a rapist to one year was a gamble and, two years ago, he ordered a man to pay £4,000 to the burglar he shot.

He was the judge who sat in the case of Jonathan Jones, the man convicted of killing his fiancée's parents, Harry and Megan Toole, in South Wales. The judge later said he was surprised by the jury's decision and Mr Jones was subsequently freed.



Scheckman: claims Say You'll Be There is similar to her composition Come To Me

## Spice Girls deny copying Israeli soldier's song

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH

THE Spice Girls, the all-female pop group and part-confessed Thatcherites, were at the centre of fresh publicity last night after an Israeli soldier said one of their songs was curiously similar to one she had written. Idit Scheckman said she had consulted lawyers over similarities between her song, *Come To Me*, written two years ago, and *Say You'll Be There*, the Spice Girls' current hit.

The 19-year-old lyricist and composer said she was pursuing her claim through the Israeli copyright authorities and might sue. However, Gerard Tyrrell, the band's solicitor, said none of the five Spice Girls had ever heard of the Israeli song. "The first Spice Girls knew of this matter was earlier today when they turned on their radios. Little information is available concerning the other song – which we understand contains lyrics written in Hebrew, a language not spoken by any of the Spice Girls – but what is quite clear is that the Spice Girls have never heard of either the artist or the song."

He added that no details of any claim had been received and no legal proceedings had been issued.

Ms Scheckman said: "It hurt very much. Although I

resume her singing career once she completes her two years' national service in February. Meanwhile, the Spice Girls' latest record, *2 Become 1*, released yesterday, seems set to go straight to Christmas number one in the charts this weekend.

William Hill has closed its books on *2 Become 1* being number one at Christmas. Earlier some gamblers betted £500 at 16/1.

## Judge jails gang in cashcard plot

BY STEWART TENDER

LEADING figures in a plot to steal up to £80 million with counterfeited cashcards were jailed for five years yesterday.

One of them, John "Little Legs" Lloyd, had fled Britain after suspected of being involved in the £26 million Brink's-Mat bullion robbery in 1993 but returned in 1994. The Crown Prosecution Service decided not to prosecute Lloyd over the bullion raid. Last year police arrested him as one of the leaders of the cashcard plot.

The conspiracy was linked to Kenneth Noye, who went abroad after becoming a suspect in the M25 "road rage" murder of Stephen Cameron. Noye was never questioned about the cashcard plot and detectives now say they believe he was only peripheral to the gang.

Yesterday Lloyd and six other men were sentenced at Southwark Crown Court, southeast London, after pleading guilty to conspiracy to steal. Judge Rivlin, QC, said the plot was "as ambitious a criminal agreement to steal as one can imagine. If successful, this conspiracy would have given you vast sums of money."

He told Lloyd, from West Kingsdown, Kent, that he

## Car-death suspect is killed in crash

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

A YOUNG man wanted by police in connection with the hit-and-run death of the medical student Caroline Elliot died in a crash while driving another stolen car, a Peugeot 205.

Lee Davies, from Stockbridge, Merseyside, was in a high-speed car chase with police when the stolen vehicle he was driving crashed into a tree in Shrewsbury, Shropshire.

Five days earlier, Miss Elliot had been killed by a stolen Vauxhall Astra while jogging in Sefton Park, Liverpool. Police confirmed that they are not looking for anyone else in connection with the incident.

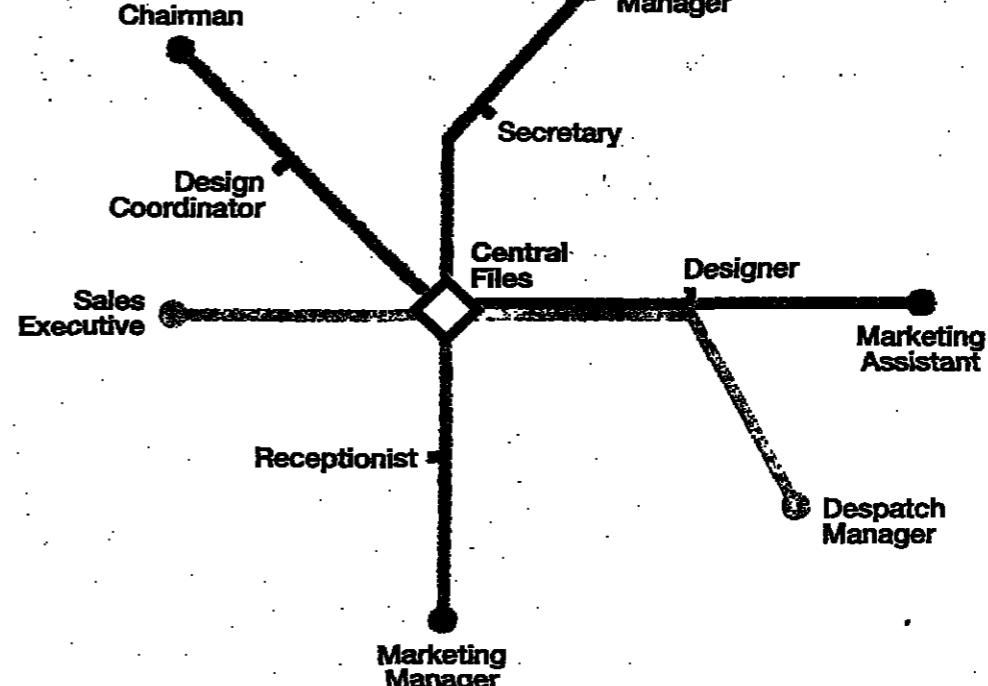
Miss Elliot, a student at Liverpool university, died from head injuries. Her flatmate, Sarah Edenbrow, who was jogging with her, was seriously injured but was able to attend her friend's funeral on Monday.

Yesterday police said they withheld details of Mr Davies' accident to allow officers investigating the tragedy to personally inform the families of both girls.

Police had been chasing Mr Davies, for several minutes early in the morning of November 19, after reports of a



Lloyd: fled abroad after Brink's-Mat robbery



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## New York court gives estranged couple's child a transatlantic future

BY PAUL WILKINSON

A CHILD will grow up commuting across the Atlantic between his estranged parents after an unusual ruling by a New York court.

Joseph Fowler, aged 16 months, has dual nationality, will spend eight months of the year in this country with his British mother and four months in the United States with his American father as a result of the decision last week. The judgment, yet to be ratified by an English court, has been questioned by British experts in family law who say it would put tremendous strain on the child and his family.

Jane and William Fowler had lived in America since their marriage in 1990,

and Joseph was born there. Mrs Fowler returned to Yorkshire with him three months ago after their marriage broke down. Last month there was a countrywide alert when Mr Fowler took Joseph from Mrs Fowler's home in Harrogate, south Yorkshire. In spite of a watch on ports and airports, Mr Fowler, an unemployed electronics technician, was able to fly with his son to New York.

Mrs Fowler, 27, a nursery school teacher, began a court battle for custody. She attended the New York hearing and returned with Joseph at the weekend.

She said yesterday that she expected the ruling to be confirmed by an English court shortly. "There is no ideal compromise. It is what has been agreed by both parties and is legally binding. I don't

Shuttle 150

# Saunders ruling may prompt change in law

**'Draconian' powers under threat after Euro-court's condemnation**

By FRANCES GIBB  
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

GOVERNMENT officials are expected to re-draft legislation that gives DTI inspectors far-reaching powers to compel suspects to answer questions then use the material in the prosecution against them.

Condemning the way the evidence is used in trials, the European Court of Human Rights said: "The public interest in combating fraud could not be invoked to justify the use of answers compulsorily obtained in a non-judicial investigation."

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) said it would examine the ruling to see "what implications there are for UK company regulators and criminal prosecutions". But officials have identified at least 200 pending fraud and insider dealing cases which could be affected by the ruling because the only evidence is "tainted" in that it was obtained by inspectors under compulsion.

The case comes exactly ten years after the Guinness fraud investigation began and rested on questioning by DTI officials that began on February 10, 1987, when Ernest Saunders, then chief executive of Guinness, was summoned to the City accountants Peat Marwick McClintock.

Flanked by his lawyers, he faced compulsory interrogation across a table by David Donaldson, QC, and Ian Watt, a chartered accountant — both DTI — in what was the first of nine interrogations that would eventually lead to his trial and imprisonment.

The inspectors were investigating allegations that Guinness indulged in a share-support operation during its takeover battle for Distillers in 1986. Mr Saunders had to comply. Failure to do so, under what his counsel, Michael Beloff, QC, called "draconian" powers granted to the DTI inspectors under the Companies Act 1967, could lead to a fine or imprisonment for up to two years.

George Devlin, Mr Saunders's human rights consultant, said yesterday: "It's

increased to 15, of false accounting, theft, and conspiracy. Yesterday those interrogations, and obtaining of material that led to Mr Saunders's conviction and imprisonment, prompted a damning indictment of the Government by the European Court. The authorities, the court ruled, had breached Mr Saunders's right to a fair trial.

As Michael Beloff, QC, put it, Mr Saunders was a man stripped of his human rights and forced to incriminate himself in breach of the protection afforded to all other defendants — even those accused of murder, rape, robbery, drug dealing or terrorist offences.

The ruling appears to knock a massive hole in the armoury of prosecuting authorities to combat serious fraud, and to reassess the centuries-old defendant's right to silence. The right dates from the trial of John Lilburn in 1637, when he refused to take an oath binding him to answer all questions put to him by the Star Chamber. It rests on the principle that the burden of proof is on the prosecution and that defendants are under no obligation to help them to prove their case.

The right has been called "the golden thread that runs through the web of English criminal law". But it has been eroded. Since 1856, a case established that the prosecution could use answers obtained from bankrupts under threat of imprisonment, as evidence for a prosecution. But the Judges' Rules, drawn up between 1912 and 1918, stipulated that a person "cautious" need not answer.

The first English statute expressly to provide for answers to be obtained by DTI inspectors under compulsion was the Companies Act 1967, followed by the Companies Act 1985.

Yesterday, the European Court noted that part of a transcript of Mr Saunders's answers had been read to the jury despite his objections. "Accordingly, there had been an infringement of the applicant's right not to incriminate himself."

Leading article, page 17



Road to recovery: Saunders with his sons and daughter in hospital after his early release from prison in 1991

**Verdict another blow to Fraud Office**

By JON ASHWORTH

THE Strasbourg ruling is a blow to regulation of the City of London and is the latest in a series of disappointments for the Serious Fraud Office. The SFO said yesterday it would resist all attempts to quash Mr Saunders's conviction.

The Guinness affair provoked a clampdown by the Government and authorities on what were seen as City of London excesses. It was the Department of Trade's job to investigate company scandals and collapses.

The SFO was set up after the Guinness affair to tackle large-scale fraud cases but prosecutions in high-profile cases involving Blue Arrow, Maxwell and George Walker flopped. Roger Levitt, one-time financial adviser to the rich and famous, was sentenced to community service.

City regulators have sought to co-operate more closely since the Guinness affair, but implicitly acknowledge that scope for abuse remained. There has long been talk of a "front-running" ring, in which brokers use inside information to profit on share deals, channelling the gains through secretive offshore havens. Details of suspicious share dealing are routinely passed by the Stock Exchange to the DTI. The prospect of "another Guinness" has probably done more than anything to focus City minds.

The fall-out led to a closing of ranks by City regulators, and made bankers and brokers think twice before agreeing to act as advisers to a deal. No amount of success fees could compensate for the damage to a firm's reputation.

"The case has been exhaustively heard in the English courts," the SFO said. "Two appeal court hearings have upheld the prosecution's case."

The European Court of Human Rights said it could not speculate on whether the outcome of the trial would have been any different had use not been made of the Department of Trade and Industry transcripts by the prosecution.

The ruling could have implications for Mr Saunders's co-defendants, who are pursuing their own claims. Anthony Parnes, the stockbroker implicated in the affair, could have the most to gain. It appears that evidence in the DTI transcripts was fundamental to the prosecution, and without them there would have been no case against him.

## The 'bewildered old man' whose business brain earns £800 a day

By CAROL MIDDLETON

ERNEST SAUNDERS will forever be remembered as the man who made a miraculous recovery from apparent pre-senile dementia.

Five years ago he was described by doctors as a bewildered old man unable to finish a sentence, name the President of America or count

backwards from three. Now he charges £800 a day advising clients such as the publishing company Richbell Strategic Holdings and Carphone Warehouse.

The man whose name was once a by-word for fraud (his criminal record is stamped on his passport) and whose brain was said in the Court of Appeal to be shrinking, is now back with the great and good.

He is welcomed at the grandest of functions and companies pay handsomely for his sharp business brain and his "shrewd and enthusiastic" advice.

His salary from his various consultancies is reckoned to be about £150,000. He receives a £75,000 Guinness pension and makes an income from speeches and lectures. He has two homes — a £250,000 house in Putney,

south London, and a £350,000 17th century house in Sidlesham, near Chichester, where he joins his wife, Carole, at weekends.

Their former house, a mansion in Penin, Buckinghamshire, had to be sold for £600,000 during the trial as did their Swiss apartment. About that time Mrs Saunders had a nervous breakdown. It was the love of their children James, 31, who wrote a book, *Nightmare*, about his father's experience. Joanna, 28, and John, 23, who helped her through it and she is now recovered.

Mr Saunders was sent to Ford open prison but his sentence was halved on appeal and he served only 10 months in an open prison after a doctor diagnosed that he was suffering from pre-senile dementia. Patrick Gallaway, a forensic

psychiatrist at Exeter Nuffield Hospital, who expressed concern over Mr Saunders's inability to use a door properly in 1991, was unavailable for comment yesterday. Earlier this week, however, he said that three other doctors apart from him had had similar concerns: "We never made a diagnosis but all the doctors agreed there was some suspicion of senile dementia," he said. "Happily this turned out not to be the case."

In a recent interview, Mr Saunders angrily rejected suggestions that he had feigned illness. "The idea that I could persuade members of the medical profession that I had this condition is disgraceful. I resent it enormously," he said. "When I go to America and Europe I get a pat on the back for having come back from the dead. I get the opposite here in Britain."

## Lawyers consider claim for redress

By FRANCES GIBB

ERNEST SAUNDERS hinted at fresh legal actions yesterday, including the possibility of a compensation claim against the Government.

He ran up a legal aid bill of £1.28 million in defence costs for the criminal trial that was held to be unfair yesterday. But he funded the six-year battle to Strasbourg himself, with the help of friends.

He has earned an estimated £125,000 a year from consultancy work since being released from prison and has had a pension from Guinness since being dismissed in 1987.

Yesterday the court rejected his claims totalling more than £4.6 million for loss of income and expenses and also cut his plea for almost £340,000 in court costs and expenses to £75,000. Any compensation claim against the Government would depend on whether the Home Secretary referred his conviction back to the Court of Appeal and whether it was quashed. Without that, he is still a convicted criminal.

Yesterday all the signs were that that was extremely unlikely. Government officials pointed to the European judges' comment that the outcome of this trial might not have been any different, even if the DTI evidence had not been used. The Serious Fraud Office said it would resist all attempts to have the conviction quashed or compensated awarded.

Mr Saunders indicated that legal action for compensation was one option. "My advisers and I will now be considering all the options open to us legally and otherwise."



Private eye who spotted unfairness

GEORGE DEVLIN, the multi-millionaire and self-styled "human rights consultant" to Ernest Saunders, had reason to look pleased with himself yesterday.

For six years he has worked more or less full-time preparing the case first for the European Commission on Human Rights and then for the European court. "I was the one," he said proudly, "who first identified that the use of this evidence in Mr Saunders's trial was unfair."

Mr Devlin, 55, a tax exile

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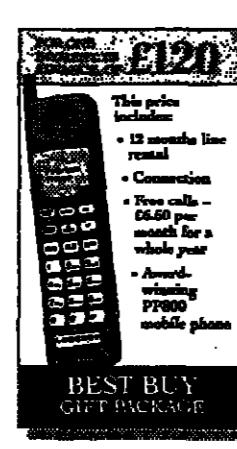
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Coronation Street hit by strong bidding from Roadshow

## Aunty's antiques knock down ITV's old soap

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

**AN ATTEMPT** by ITV to boost the flagging ratings of *Coronation Street* by launching a fourth weekly episode is failing in the face of unforeseen opposition from BBC1's *Antiques Roadshow*.

Audiences for the soap opera's Sunday evening slot have fallen from 15.7 million since its launch on November 24 to 13.5 million, compared to a steady 10 million for *Antiques Roadshow*.

Michael Jackson, controller of BBC1, said: "Antiques Roadshow is probably the most successful programme we have had against *Coronation Street* since *Stepfie and Son* in the 1960s."

Mr Jackson said that the fourth *Coronation Street* episode was not natural weekend viewing. "I am not convinced that every *Coronation Street* viewer wants to see it on a Sunday," he said. It was a time for families to sit down together, but the programme appealed mainly to a female

The BBC will also be re-

running the 1960s sitcom, *Till Death Us Do Part*, featuring the foul-mouthed bigot Alf Garnett, played by Warren Mitchell. In his heyday, the outspoken Alf Garnett caused outrage by referring to black people as "coons" and to his son-in-law, Mike — played by Tony Booth, father of Cherie Booth, now the wife of Tony Blair, the Labour leader — as "a randy Scouse girl".

Mark Thompson, Controller of BBC2, said that it was unlikely to censor the programme, which formerly attracted audiences of up to 25 million, because viewers would understand that it exposed the bigotry behind Alf Garnett's views without endorsing them.

"It is indisputably one of the greatest comedies that the BBC has ever produced and the overwhelming majority of viewers will be happy to see it back again," he said.

Another period piece, Jo-

seph Conrad's *Nostromo*, will be adapted for television for the first time, starring Colin Firth, Albert Finney and Claudia Cardinale, on BBC2. Modern drama in the BBC schedule includes a new prison serial, *Insiders*, written by Lucy Gannon, the creator of *Peak Practice*, *Soldier Soldier* and *Bramwell* for ITV.

Michael French, who until recently played David Wicks in *EastEnders*, has a new role as a time-travelling detective in *The Crime Traveller*, and Sinead Cusack and Miles Anderson star in a modern marriage series, *Have Your Cake*.

Factual programmes on BBC1 include *Children's Hospital*, a look inside the casualty unit at the Alder Hey Hospital in Liverpool. *EastEnders* star Wendy Richard presents *The Big C*, a programme about cancer, a year after diagnosis of her own breast cancer.

Television listings, page 43



Steven Waddington stars in *Ivanhoe*, an adaptation of Sir Walter Scott's novel of medieval England, which is one of the highlights of the BBC's winter schedule

## Daughter to boycott premiere of film

BY DALVA ALBERGE

**THE** sister of an Australian pianist whose life story is the subject of an award-winning film has refused to attend tomorrow's European premiere in London because she feels the movie is an insult to the memory of their father.

Margaret Helfgott has expressed outrage over "myths and inaccuracies" in a film about her brother David that portrays her father Peter, a survivor of the Holocaust, as dictatorial and smothering them with love. She complained to Australian newspapers about "imaginary scenarios" in the film. Beatings, it suggests, drove the son to a nervous breakdown. She is also said to object to an actor with a German accent being cast as her father.

*Shine*, tipped for an Oscar and featuring Sir John Gielgud, opens in Britain next month.

The director, Scott Hicks, insisted that his research, which included talking to David Helfgott, had been meticulous.

## Dracula and Co repay stake in gothic horror

BY ALAN HAMILTON

**IN THESE** days of *The X Files* the Victorian Gothic ghost story may no longer have the power to terrify, but it still commands the power of money. A collection of 2,000 tales of mystery and imagination, many by the most obscure of authors, were sold at Sotheby's yesterday for £233,000, more than twice the auctioneer's estimate.

The top price of £7,820 was paid for a pristine 1851 first edition of *Ghost Stories and Tales of Mystery* by J. Sheridan Le Fanu, not an author whose name is much bandied about Hampstead dinner party tables these days. By comparison, a first edition of Bram Stoker's much better known *Dracula* went for £3,910, while a particularly rare first edition of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's *Mysteries and Adventures* published in 1899 made a disappointing £1,650.

Sotheby's book experts said last night that the collection was the finest of its kind to come to market within memory. There were no regrets, however, for the seller, Andrew Stevens, a Devon solicitor who assembled a huge library of ghost and mystery stories over 35 years and who, despite the disposal of his

2,000 best volumes yesterday, still has 4,000 left. He picked them up for a song at charity shops and street markets over 35 years.

One of his best buys was an 1884 first edition of Robert Louis Stevenson's *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, in its original paper cover, which he bought for one shilling (5p) from a bookshop in Wales. It went for £980.

"I am approaching retirement and I always saw my collection as a kind of pension," Mr Stevens said last night. "Besides, being custodian of so many books is a bit of a lie." He confessed himself staggered at the prices, especially as he had bought the top for the £7,820 Le Fanu, at auction less than 20 years ago for a couple of hundred pounds.

"I read a great deal as a boy and I began to collect the sort of books I liked reading. To the average reader, many of them will be extremely obscure but they are well known to enthusiasts of Gothic literature, of whom there are more than you might think," Mr Stevens said.

"I have never been on holiday without finding books to add to my collection," he said. "I should think I've bought books in every county in England and Wales — some from ordinary book-sellers but hundreds from market stalls and charity shops."

Peter Selley, Sotheby's English literature expert, said that the excellent condition of the books had boosted interest. He added: "The Gothic field attracts a great many collectors and prices are going up. There has been a whole re-evaluation of the Gothic novel in academic circles, partly because it often deals with the currently fashionable topics of gender, feminism and sexuality."



Dracula: the legend has lost none of its bite

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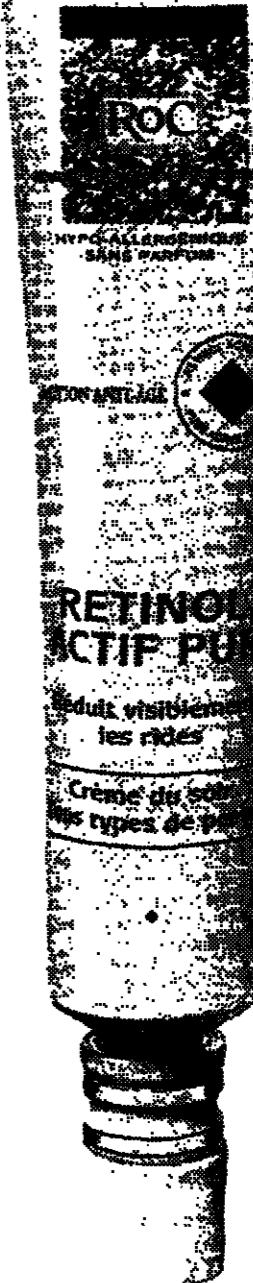
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## Lincoln dean says he will resign if the money is right

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Dean of Lincoln announced yesterday that he was willing to resign from the city's embattled cathedral. The Very Rev Brandon Jackson said that his lawyers were negotiating with the legal team at Lambeth Palace, the London home of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Earlier this year, Dr George Carey asked Dr Jackson and Canon Rex Davis, the Sub-Dean, to resign. The Dean said that he would resign only if Canon Davis went too. He now says that he is prepared to relinquish his freehold position unilaterally and that negotiations between lawyers have been taking place for some time. Canon Davis said he saw no reason to go.

The two men were speaking after the Bishop of Lincoln, the Right Rev Robert Hardy, announced he would boycott Christmas services at the cathedral in protest at their failure to resolve the long-running dispute. Dr Jackson



Jackson said bishop was the real problem

said that his departure depended on Dr Carey fulfilling his promise to preserve his "dignity and honour" and to ensure that he was not financially disadvantaged. "If the Archbishop waffles on his promise, then I will be happy to stay until I'm 70," said Dr Jackson, who is 62.

The dispute has its origins in a loss-making exhibition of

the cathedral's Magna Carta in Australia in 1988, organised by Canon Davis. Dr Jackson was appointed the following year. He was cleared by a consistory court last year of sexual misconduct with a former cathedral verger.

Dr Jackson said: "I am not the centre of the dispute. The bishop is. And he has failed for over seven years now to exercise his authority properly." A spokesman for the bishop said Dr Brandon "is continually saying he's going but he will never tell us when. And his perpetual attack upon the bishop is something which upsets the whole diocese."

□ A married clergyman is to be examined at a church court over allegations that he had affairs with several parishioners. The Rev Clifford Williams, 48, a Church in Wales rector of Benllech, Anglesey, denies the claims, made in a Sunday newspaper.

Letters, page 17



Stacey Carter-Brooks, 10, had two missing fingers replaced by the second toe from each foot

## Transplanted toes help children to get a grip on life

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

TOES make an excellent substitute when transplanted on to the hands of children without fingers, a surgeon's study has found. Walking is not affected and they are able to grip and grasp.

The survey was conducted by Simon Kay, of St James's University Hospital, Leeds, who has carried out more than 100 of the toe transfers. Mr Kay lost a finger in a childhood accident and was inspired by the efforts of a surgeon to save it for him. That operation did not succeed and he was left with only three fingers on his left hand.

His study of the first 40 operations, involving the transfer of 66 toes, has shown complete success, with all the toes working well. The children were able to grip paper and Lego blocks and to twist jar lids on and off.

The psychological benefits were also enormous. Mr Kay discovered, with the children less self-conscious about their hand and more willing to play with friends and take part in school activities. Once

in place, the toe grows and, to the casual eye, looks remarkably like a normal finger.

The second toe from either or both feet is removed during the operation, which takes up to eight hours. It is suitable for children born without fingers and for those who have lost them in accidents. The muscles and tendons that control the fingers are usually complete in the arm and ready to be connected to the new digit. A microscope is used during ultra-fine stitching of nerves and blood vessels.

Stacey Carter-Brooks, 10, from York, was born with two fingers of one hand missing. Her mother, Denise Waddell, said: "We are very happy with the results of the operation.

"Before, Stacey always tended to hold one hand behind her back. She wouldn't play, she held back. Now nobody notices that two of her fingers are toes. The only problem is that she now has a very slim foot, so shoe sizes cost more."

## SATURDAY IN THE TIMES



### THE BIG TEASE

Joe Joseph's Quiz of the Year in the Magazine

### UNDER WRAPS

What to wear over your party dress in Weekend

plus

**WEEKEND MONEY**  
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## Psychological society

## Parents who row likely to produce high achievers'

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

FAMILIES that argue frequently — or are "expressive", as psychologists prefer to put it — are more likely to produce high achievers.

Research presented to the British Psychological Society's London conference yesterday showed that conflict within families, coupled with a strong sense of cohesion, produced offspring who are better prepared to deal with life's difficulties, regardless of the family structure in which they were raised.

Coming from a broken home was no bar to success in later life. The conventional ideal of the nuclear family was less important to child development than what went on between parents and children, whether there was one parent or two. Achieving cohesiveness within the family was helped by one parent being absent for part of childhood but was harmed if there were too many sons, the study found.

Tony Cassidy, a senior lecturer in psychology who carried out the research with colleagues at Nene College in Northampton, told the meeting: "We were looking at what makes children more resilient to stress. We found it is not related to the structure of the family — whether it's broken or not — but more to its cohesiveness."

Encouragement towards intellectual and cultural pursuits was one of the most important predictors of success in families. But this had to be coupled with freedom of expression and encouragement to debate and argue. Dr

Cassidy said: "More expressive families tend to produce children who are higher in mastery — that is, they see problems as challenges rather than as threats. Stress comes from seeing problems as threats rather than challenges. If expressiveness is not encouraged, the children will tend to be less resilient in the face of stress."

The researchers studied the family backgrounds of 169 young adults — selected from the Armed Forces, skilled non-manual workers and students — and assessed how well-motivated they were to achieve. They found that high achievers were more likely to come from families which had experienced conflict in the form of rows and disputes with parents or siblings.

If it provoked debate and a search for solutions, conflict could inspire children to respond positively to challenge.



## Sweet solution to sticky problems

By JEREMY LAURANCE

WORKERS who chomp their way through chocolate bars and chewing gum to handle stress may have sniffed out two perfect calming foods to help them through their day.

A team of psychologists studying the effects of smells found that chocolate and spearmint had a powerful calming effect. Blindfolded volunteers were used to measure effects on theta brain waves, associated with levels of attention.

Nell Martin of the University of Middlesex, who presented the findings to the British Psychological Society's conference yesterday, said: "Chocolate generated less theta waves than any other smell."

Spearmint had a similar effect, but synthetic strawberry boosted attention probably because it bore only a distant resemblance to the real thing and demanded concentration to identify it. Hot coffee had little effect.

The experiment was partly funded by the food industry. Dr Martin, senior lecturer in neuropsychology, said: "Chocolate and spearmint are very sweet and may remind people of certain

things that are relaxing. Or something could be tapping into a sub-cortical emotional centre."

□ A study of three psychics who have assisted police forces has found that they were less accurate than a group of psychology students. Researchers at the University of Hertfordshire presented the psychics with details and objects from Essex murder cases and asked if they had any insights.

Three students had the same information. Richard Wiseman said: "The students were bright and devised quite accurate answers. The psychics made ambiguous statements which they tried to twist when they were presented with answers."

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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 18 1996

7



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Seasons Greetings

# Popular schools 'should take space from neighbours'

By JOHN O'LEARY AND DAVID CHARTER



POPULAR schools should be allowed to open annexes in neighbouring schools which have empty places. The Audit Commission said yesterday in a report which sparked a row over the Government's claims to have expanded parental choice.

The commission said one in five parents failed to secure their first choice of school, while up to £100 million was being wasted on spare capacity. Popular schools were not expanding to meet demand because there were no incentives, but the use of neighbouring premises might help avoid "gridlock" in admissions.

Bob Chilton, Director of Local Government Studies at the commission, said: "Parents do not choose a school for its buildings; it is the learning experience they are after for their children. If other buildings could be found in the locality, it would be one way of promoting choice without incurring additional expenditure."

Research by the commission showed that class sizes were growing in popular schools because head teachers were required to take pupils up to a notional capacity, which was often larger than parents or teachers wanted.

At Coombe Hill Infants School, in Kingston upon Thames, for example, there were 210 pupils, compared with the official capacity of 168. The result was classes of

## Leah Betts jury discharged after failing to reach verdict

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A JURY was discharged yesterday after failing to reach a verdict over a student accused of supplying Leah Betts with the Ecstasy tablet that killed her. A decision on whether to order a retrial will be made by the Crown Prosecution Service by the end of the week.

Steven Packman, 18, of Laindon, Essex, denied at

Norwich Crown Court any part in the supply of the class A drug to Miss Betts, who slipped into a coma at her eighteenth birthday party in November last year. His friend Stephen Smith, 19, from Basildon, Essex, has admitted being involved in the supply of the tablet and awaits sentence.

The jury, which began hearing evidence on December 10, failed to reach a verdict after

deliberations lasting nearly seven hours.

Paul Betts, Miss Betts's father and a former police man, said: "My main feeling is frustration at the fact that the matter is not over and done with. We have got to go through it all again, provided the CPS decides to have a retrial. It's the closing of one chapter and the opening of another".

International protests have

persuaded the Chinese authorities not to go ahead with planned expansion of bear farms to a capacity of 40,000 animals. However, up to 15,000 bears are still caged.

Many varieties of bear are endangered. The Asiatic black bear once ranged across Asia but now exists only in

isolated pockets. In China, where demand for body parts is most intense, the number could have dwindled to 12,000. In South Korea, the black bear is officially extinct.

As supplies run out in China, the Russian mafia has taken up the lucrative trade.

It is estimated that 4,000 of

the animals are slaughtered each year for their gall bladders in just one region of Russia. Cubs are left to die.

Bear paw soup, an Asian dish that costs up to £700 a bowl, is held to possess invigorating properties. In some restaurants in Asia, bears are boiled alive, after being beaten with sticks, "to ensure a good flow of bear juices".

Few Asian countries have specialised agencies investigating the illegal trade in wildlife. A bear gall, resembling a dried fig, is easy to hide and can be worth several thousand pounds. Herbal and synthesised alternatives to bear bile are available but there is little awareness of that in Asia.

Tusk Force and Global Survival Network are trying to educate Asian consumers and seeking better protection for bears and tougher enforcement of wildlife laws.

The West has its own lessons to learn: in North America, 40,000 bears are killed lawfully each year but the same number again is taken by poachers. The North American black bear is the source of most of the trade in bear parts for trophies but grizzly and polar bears are killed too.



Maddened by pain and frustration, a bear milked for the bile from its gall bladder bites its bars on a Chinese farm

## Charity fights to free tortured bears from the milking farms of China

By DANIEL McGROarty

THE rusted metal cage was so cramped, the bear could neither stand nor turn around. For hours, it would beat its head against the iron bars out of frustration and pain. Nearly starved and demented by confinement, the animal lay in its own filth, writhing in agony from the gaping septic wound on its back.

Thousands of bears are kept in conditions like these on farms in China and milked of the bile from the gall bladder, sold as a traditional cure. A steel catheter is jabbed into the bear's side and a plastic tube runs underneath the skin, protruding from the hole in its matted black fur. Every few days the bear is milked. The pain leaves the clamped animal moaning and clawing at its face. Often these animals are tethered by steel straps. After perhaps ten years of this treatment, they are left unable to walk.

Investigators working with Tusk Force's United States partner, the Global Survival Network, found that some of the cages had "crush" bars, designed to push the animals flat to the floor to make milking them easier.

International protests have

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### Eviction halted

A High Court judge overturned Wolverhampton Borough Council's eviction under new powers of two families of travellers from waste ground. Lord Justice Phillips said it had not considered the humanitarian implications.

### Wheelchair crash

Police are seeking an elderly hit-and-run driver whose motorised wheelchair struck an 89-year-old woman on the seafront at Bridlington, East Yorkshire, leaving her with a badly gashed leg that needed 19 stitches.

### Service cancelled

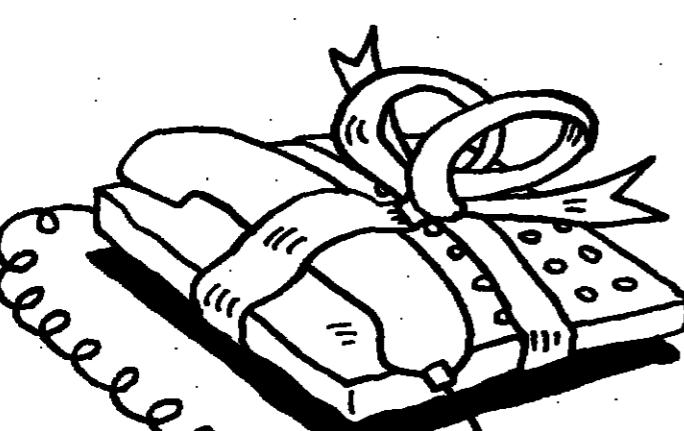
Relatives of British victims of the Lockerbie air disaster have decided against holding a memorial service in London for the first time in eight years. A wish not to deflect attention from the Dunblane massacre was one reason.

### Mandelson gibe

Sixty Tory MPs have signed an early-day motion accusing Peter Mandelson, Labour's campaign strategist, of "incompetence in failing to rig" the BBC Today Personality of the Year poll in favour of Tony Blair.

### Last post

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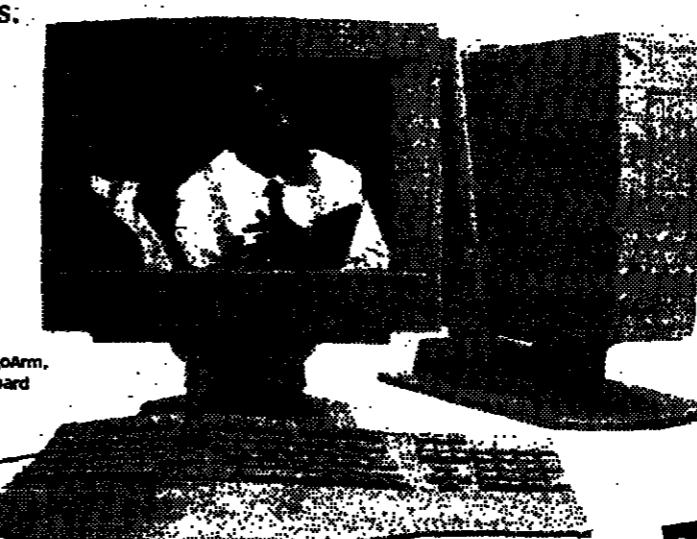
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THE TIMES WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 18 1996

HOME NEWS 9

British Ecological Society told that 94 per cent of flounders in Tyne show signs of feminisation

## Sex changes in male fish are blamed on pollution

By NICK NUTTALL  
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

FLOUNDERS living in the Tyne estuary are apparently changing sex because of industrial pollution, according to a new study of male fish which shows that 94 per cent have signs of feminisation.

Previous studies have shown that caged trout exposed to discharges from sewage treatment works underwent sex changes, but yesterday's report is the first to show them in wild marine fish. The discovery, which will raise concern over the health of North Sea fish stocks, comes amid growing alarm over the effect on the environment of man-made chemicals.

Studies from around the world have identified nonylphenol as one of the chemicals associated with a fall in human sperm counts. The chemical, used in cleaning agents, glues and paints, appears to mimic the female hormone oestrogen or, in some cases,



Flounder: study found evidence of malformed testes, yolk proteins and enlarged livers in wild male fish

block the male hormone androgen.

The latest study, by Christine Lye of the marine sciences department of the University of Newcastle, found that flounders suffered damage to

the reproductive organs, enlarged livers and build-up of yolk proteins in the testes. Ms Lye told the British Ecological Society's winter meeting at Durham University: "I would not like to eat these fish."

Feminisation was found in flounders up to 2½ miles downstream of the nearest big treatment works at Howdon, which handles domestic and industrial waste.

Ms Lye, whose full findings will be published in the *Marine Pollution Bulletin* in January, said that water treatment works might be just one source of contamination, with the fish exposed to a range of pollutants discharged into the Tyne from other sources.

The research focused on flounders because they are bottom-feeding fish which migrate between the salty estuary and the North Sea and are considered reasonably resistant to pollution. Around 300 were caught and screened for sexual deformities and compared with 100 flounders from the less-polluted Solway Firth.

Up to 50 per cent of flounders in the Solway Firth were showing signs of sex changes, compared with a figure of 94 per cent on the Tyne. Significant levels of yolk protein, normally found only in fe-

### A COMPLEX CHEMICAL EQUATION

■ Where do the oestrogen-like chemicals in the environment come from?

Thousands of chemicals could act like natural hormones. Attention has focused on nonylphenols (found in plastics, pesticides, agricultural products and car washes), phthalates (resins, plastics, dyes), and the breakdown of DDT. The contraceptive pill does not seem to be as important as naturally produced female hormones reaching rivers through sewage works.

■ Are the amounts of these chemicals building up?

Possibly. Many substances that get into rivers are washed out to sea, but others end up in sediments. These may be eaten by bottom-feeders, recycling the pollutants.

■ Is the problem worldwide?

Every developed country is likely to show similar effects. Most data on effects on wildlife has originated in the US. Recent clean-ups of rivers may have made the problem apparent. Previously, many rivers were too dirty for wildlife.

■ Can the chemicals be removed from water?

No existing water treatment works do. Technology might be developed if major culprits were identified. Natural female hormones identified as a possible major problem by the Environment Agency are made more powerful by bacteria in sewage plants.

■ Are people at the same risk as wildlife?

Some scientists have linked falls in sperm counts, abnormalities in the testes and male infertility to the problem, but evidence is contradictory. No cause has been proved and some surveys show no decline in sperm count.

■ How can we reduce possible risks? Is bottled water safer?

If water was the only source, boiled water might be cleaner because it usually comes from deep springs. In practice, every kind of food is a potential source. Changing eating habits on existing evidence is not justified.

NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

New de-icer  
'safer than  
rock salt'

By NICK NUTTALL

SCIENTISTS have discovered an alternative to rock salt that de-ices roads without damaging the environment. Gritting with salt is cheap but kills roadside trees and plants, as well as rotting cars and bridges. It can also harm freshwater streams and rivers.

The scientists from Bradford University have been studying calcium magnesium acetate. Trees sprayed with it are unscathed and while some roadside plants appear to grow more slowly, none are killed. Alistair Headley, of the department of Environmental Sciences, said salt was being phased out in some parts of the United States.

The Highways Agency said it had been evaluating alternatives, including calcium magnesium acetate, but they had been dismissed on grounds of cost. Salt, which comes from mines in Cheshire, costs between £25 and £30 a tonne whereas the new chemical costs about £1,000 a tonne.

## Injury ruling exposes rugby refs to liability

By ADRIAN LEE

SPORTS officials could be liable for substantial damages after a referee was blamed yesterday for the appalling injuries suffered by a 17-year-old rugby player.

The Court of Appeal rejected as "unsustainable" an argument by the referee, Michael Nolan, that Ben Smoldon had consented to the risk of injury by voluntarily playing a highly physical game.

Mr Smoldon, who broke his neck when a scrum collapsed and is confined to a wheelchair for life, was awarded damages in the High Court in April against Mr Nolan, who had failed in his duty to the player. The damages have yet to be decided but yesterday's ruling clears the way for Mr Smoldon to receive an award of £1 million.

After the ruling, the Rugby Football Union said it expected its insurance premiums to rise. All referees are automatically covered by public liability insurance, funded by the RFU. Since the High Court ruling, only a handful of amateur referees have told the RFU that they no longer wish to officiate.

Lord Bingham, sitting with Lord Justice Auld and Lord Justice Neill, said all rugby players should be insured against injury. But he said the court did not want to "open the door to a plethora of claims by players against referees and it would be deplorable if that

Law Report, page 30



Michael Nolan, left, failed to exercise reasonable care in a match, leaving Ben Smoldon, right, paralysed

## Number is up for italic car plates

By JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE Government is to clamp down on customised lettering on number plates because it cannot be read by speed cameras.

Registration letters and numbers in italics or in the style of a computer printout will be banned under a new British standard typeface, the Department of Transport announced yesterday.

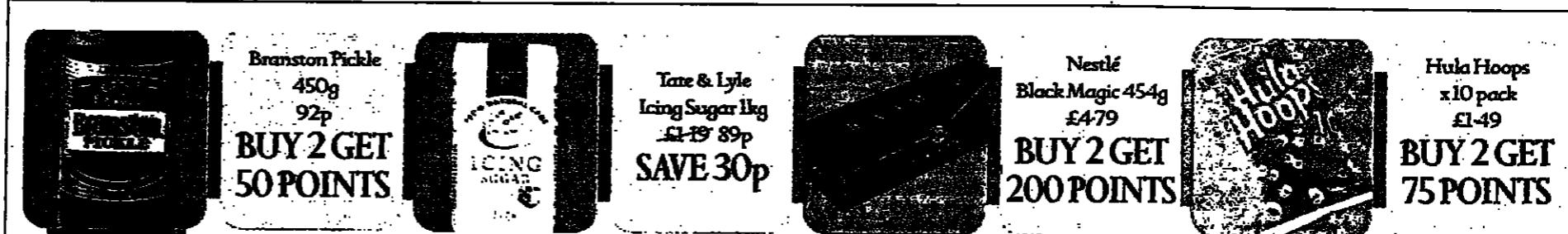
Although the existing rules specify the height of the characters and the width of their strokes, they do not cover the typeface, a loophole that has led to a rash of new styles.

Ministers have not yet decided to make the existing style the legal standard, as lower-case letters and different colours are being considered.

The announcement came as

the Government inaugurated a four-month consultation on the future of the registration plate. The present system – an annual registration letter followed by three numbers and three letters – must be replaced by July 31, 2004. It is unpopular with the motor industry because the August rush for new registrations coincides with the holiday season.

Options being considered include a quarterly change of registration letter to even out sales, a change of registration every three or four years to make use of a greater combination of letters and numbers, a geographical indicator based on postcode or region, and a deregulated system allowing any mix of characters and numbers.



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# Sick Mobutu flies home with mission to prop up Zaire

FROM SAM KILEY, AFRICA CORRESPONDENT, IN NAIROBI AND BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

PRESIDENT MOBUTU of Zaire returned to Kinshasa yesterday after months of cancer treatment in Europe to confront his toughest political task — how to prevent the break-up of the vast country.

Stepping off his chartered plane from Nice, the last of Africa's great dictators, who has amassed billions during his repressive 31-year rule, raised his hands in salute to 20,000 "supporters" in the crumbling capital. The 66-year-old leader was accompanied by a huge entourage of security guards, aides and family members.

His flight was followed by a cargo plane carrying consumer goods such as French washing-machines, refrigerators, televisions, video recorders and other items purchased in a last-minute shopping spree by the Mobutu clan. Each of the consumer durables, making up the President's baggage, costs more than the average Zairean's annual wage of £200.

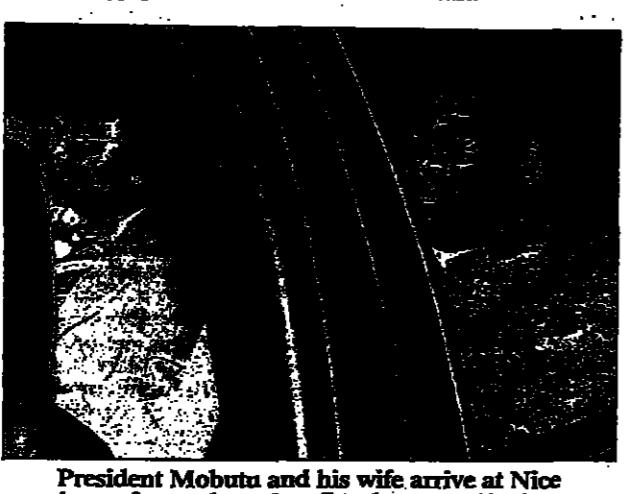
Many African observers were surprised that Mr Mobutu bothered to return. "He has salved away the best part of \$9 billion (£5.4 billion), he's dying, old, and has probably lost all credibility he had with his own people. Why he didn't stay where he was in the south of France and watch Zaire fall apart on satellite TV beats me," one Western ambassador in Nairobi said.

But others believe only he can hold Zaire together as rebels in eastern Zaire have seized control of a swath of the country and routed his army. The rebels — the Alliance of Democratic Forces for Liberation, Congo-Zaire — under Western pressure have been offering ceasefire negotiations for the last ten days. So far Mr Mobutu has given few clues to his plans for tackling the Rwandan-backed rebel offensive in the east.

For the past five years Mr Mobutu has ruled a country the size of Western Europe with a mixture of well-timed chaos, to prevent his enemies from organising an effective opposition, followed by complete indifference. As a result, the mineral-rich provinces of Shaba and East and West Kasai have established a form of autonomy, and North and South Kivu are now under control of the rebels led by a veteran guerrilla leader, Laurent Kabila. They have vowed to march on Kinshasa.

African leaders are worried that, if Zaire falls further into chaos, anarchy will spread to the nine nations bordering it; civil wars already rage in Burundi and Sudan.

Mr Mobutu's first task may be to rein in his own administration before both the Government and Zaire collapse under a rebel onslaught. This is the sort of challenge he might like. Perhaps he will rise to it, a veteran African diplomat said.



President Mobutu and his wife arrive at Nice airport from where they flew home to Kinshasa.



A woman tries to protect her belongings yesterday as she wades through the floodwaters in the southern Indian city of Madras. Thousands of homes were submerged, rice crops were damaged and more than 80 people were killed during heavy rains in Tamil Nadu state last week.

## Peking's chosen chief tells Patten to face reality

TUNG CHEE-HWA, Hong Kong's Chief Executive-designate, yesterday

urged the Governor, Chris Patten, to "face the reality" and help to establish a form of government for the future.

"Too much argument has gone on over the provisional legislature," the 59-year-old shipping tycoon said in comments before flying to Peking for his formal appointment as the future leader of post-colonial Hong Kong. Mr Patten has denounced the provi-

sional legislature as unwarranted and says he will have nothing to do with it.

Speaking to the Joint Chambers of Commerce, Mr Tung said the British and Hong Kong Governments were "wrong" for refusing to co-operate with Peking's handpicked Provisional Legislative Council which, on July 1 next year, will replace the present wholly elected Legislative Council

(LegCo). The new 60-member council will be chosen on Saturday.

Both councils will operate at once and, obviously, in mutual opposition. Although the provisional council will not formally take office until July 1, its influence will be great if not decisive from the start. Nevertheless, Mr Patten has described it as "this echo chamber". Mr Tung has admitted that

there are doubts about its legality, but he said this will be resolved.

Although Mr Tung was careful yesterday not to set any clear limits on free speech, he left no doubt what he would discourage. "Achieving our aims need not go through open confrontation or street demonstrations," he said in an oblique reference to Hong Kong democrats who frequently take to the streets to protest against Chinese actions.

### Israelis reject US criticism

FROM ROSS DUNN  
IN JERUSALEM

THE Israeli Government yesterday rejected criticism by President Clinton that its policy of Jewish settlements was an obstacle to peace.

Binjamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, declined to comment, but Yitzhak Mordechai, the Defence Minister, made it clear that his Government intended to expand Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, despite increased pressure from the United States not to do so.

"The policy of this Government is to strengthen settlement in places where it exists," Mr Mordechai told reporters during a visit to the Gaza Strip.

"There are natural needs and necessary growth and I believe this policy is clear and was explained to every national and international element. If there are disagreements, it is better for us to talk about them."

### Australia uncorks wine's genetic code

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

THE Australian wine industry, which already enjoys an enormous British following, is poised to further consolidate its worldwide reputation with the development of genetically enhanced vines.

The breakthrough, announced by scientists in Adelaide yesterday, is expected to transform the country's wine and dried fruit industries by boosting both productivity and quality.

Australian researchers believe the genetically modified vines will produce superior grapes, enhanced flavour, improved colour development and increased disease resistance.

The research team, funded by the Australian Government's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, has already produced 20 grape vines from single cells in a test tube environment, each containing a new introduced gene.

Nigel Scott, the research team leader, revealed that they had managed to isolate the vine genes responsible for differing characteristics, such as colour and sugar accumula-

tion, as long ago as 1991. Since then they had been searching for a system to return the genes in a modified form into the grape vines.

"That's what we have now," he said. "It is a tool which is used for most transformations of plants but for grape vines it has been more difficult. It is the last piece of the jigsaw puzzle we need."

Mr Scott said their research would now move on to colouring agents in other grape vines including the chardonnay and cabernet varieties. Success in this area could reduce the need for sulphur dioxide in white wines and enhancing the colour of red varieties. The process might also help to isolate those genes which prevent some of the more damaging vineyard diseases.

Australia's wine industry, already worth £750 million, produced an all-time record grape output for the 1996 vintage of 885,000 tonnes. With production expected to increase rapidly over the next few years, yesterday's announcement could place Australia on the threshold of a worldwide wine bonanza.

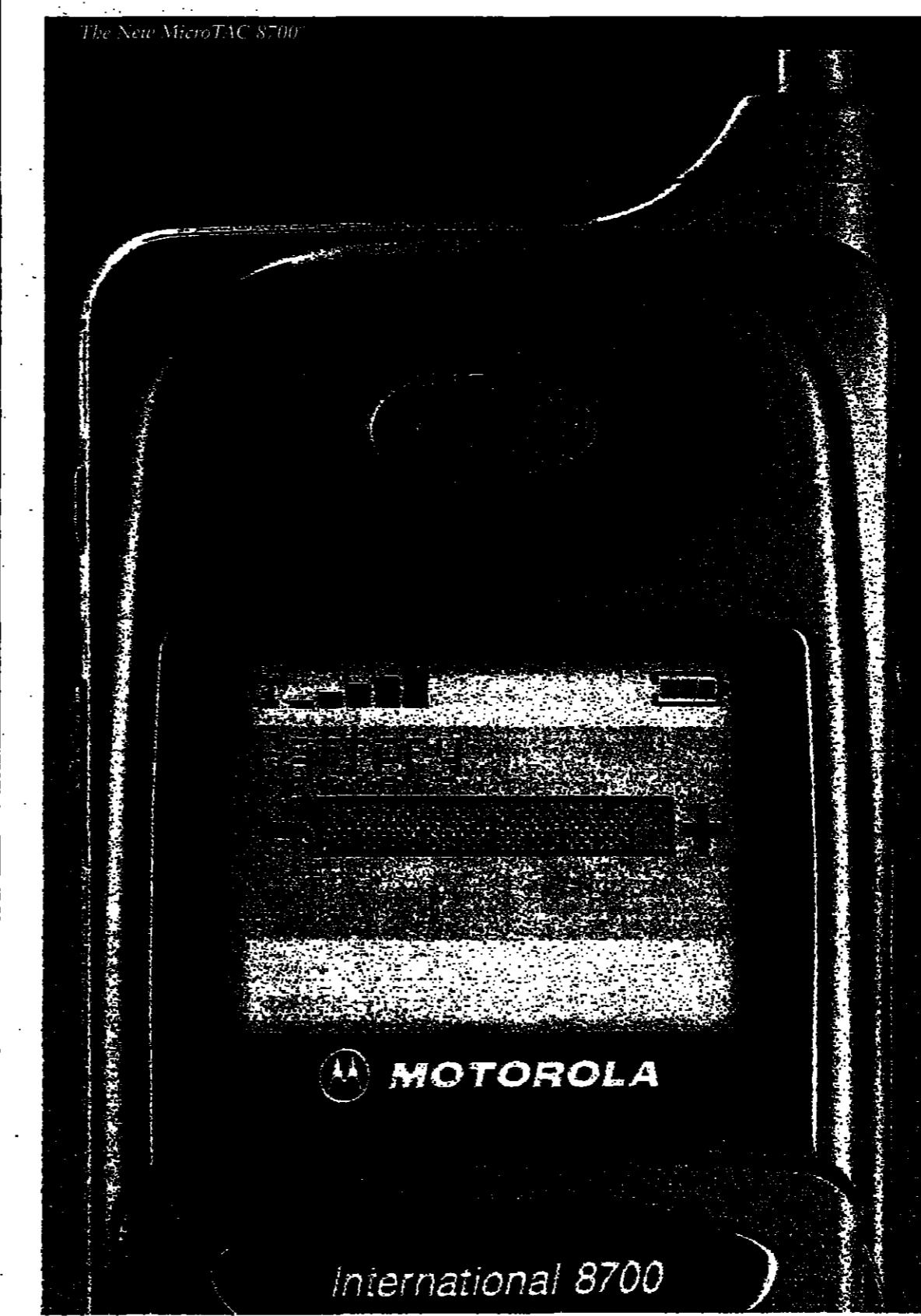
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# Clinton's fighting fund repays cash to Buddhist sect

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON



THE CLINTONS have been forced to repay \$64,000 (about £40,000) in questionable Asian donations that were intended to help in settling the mounting legal costs of scandals involving the White House.

The latest embarrassment to the President and his wife emerged after trustees of their legal defence fund announced that much of the money, received from an Asian businessman in Little Rock, had been raised at American meetings of a controversial Buddhist sect based in Taiwan.

Although the money was returned last spring, long before a controversy erupted over Democratic campaign finances, the repayment was not made public until more than a month after the Clintons were returned to the White House.

Created in 1994 to help to pay the legal fees incurred by either Bill or Hillary Clinton, the defence fund currently faces \$2.2 million in bills from inquiries into Whitewater, the Paula Jones sexual harassment suit and numerous other investigations. Without the dubious donations, trustees said the fund now totalled little more than \$100,000.

Mrs Clinton is once more at the heart of this latest saga involving Charles Yeh Lin Trie, a native of Taiwan and a longstanding friend from Arkansas. In March Mr Trie presented the fund with two large envelopes filled with cheques, all apparently from American citizens. Many of the cheques seemed to have been issued by the same people, others were corporate and most of the money had been raised at meetings of one Buddhist organisation. The rules of the defence fund insist that contributions cannot come from companies, must

the decision to return the money was ... in the best interest of the President and Mrs Clinton," said Michael Cardozo, the chief trustee.

At the time the trustees informed both Mrs Clinton and Harold Ickes, the deputy White House chief of staff, of their concerns and the cheques were locked in a box while investigators tried to trace all the donors. Initially, Mr Cardozo said, Mrs Clinton appeared not to recognise Mr Trie's name, but then remembered that he had a restaurant in Little Rock. "Only then did she say, 'Oh I think that is one of the restaurants where Bill used to go for lunch when he was Governor,'" he said.

Under the circumstances it was therefore surprising that two weeks after the meeting the White House announced the appointment of Mr Trie to a 16-member advisory panel on Asian trade.

Ching Hai, the master, has auctioned personal effects, handkerchiefs and even her Volvo to raise funds for the group. Last year one initiate said she had spent \$800 on a pair of the leader's socks.

"We concluded under the circumstances we should not accept the contributions and

## Belgians reward top sax appeal

Brussels: President Clinton's services to the saxophone have been recognised by a Christmas present from the Belgian town of Dinant, birthplace of the saxophone's inventor, Adolphe Sax (1814-1894). The gift was a brooch made from 18-carat gold in the form of Mr Clinton's favourite instrument (AFP).

# Challenger debris washes up on beach in Florida



Challenger explodes seconds after lift-off in 1986

TWO large pieces of the space shuttle Challenger washed up on the Florida shore yesterday — nearly 11 years after it exploded, killing all seven crew.

Nasa identified a rectangular piece of metal, 6ft by 15ft, and a smaller piece, 1ft by 5ft, that was found further north as being parts of the doomed spacecraft.

The larger piece, believed to be part of the rudder, tail or wing flap, had pieces of thermal tiles attached. Some of the tiles still had identification numbers on them, said Bill

Johnson, for Nasa. "It has been verified. It is for sure a piece of Challenger," he said.

Challenger exploded 73 seconds after lift-off on January 28, 1986, killing Christa McAuliffe, who was to have been the first teacher in space, Jarvis, and their five crewmates. A leak in a joint on the right solid-fuel rocket booster was blamed.

Within a day, hundreds of pounds of metal was salvaged. The remains of the astronauts were found in March 1986 in the debris of the crew cabin.

Both items were to be taken to Kennedy Space Center for

further analysis. Eventually, they will be buried with the other reclaimed Challenger remains — about 5,000 pieces weighing a quarter-million pounds — in abandoned missile silos at the adjoining Cape Canaveral Air Station.

The others in the Challenger crew were commander Francis "Dick" Scobee; pilot Michael Smith; Judith Resnik, the second American woman in space; Ronald McNair, the second African-American in space; and Ellison Onizuka, the first Asian-American in space.

"It's uncanny," Mr Johnson said. "First of all, it's a very large piece, and nothing so big has washed up in Florida before. They've washed up in the Carolinas."

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the surf yesterday morning in nearby Cocoa Beach.

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Customers who have bought any of the above pies, since November 1st 1996, are requested to return it to any Tesco store. A full refund will be given or the product replaced. Plenty of alternative supplies are available.

The manufacturers, Park Cakes, have now reviewed their procedures and undertaken a full investigation. No other Tesco mince pies are affected by this withdrawal.

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Estée Lauder, whose \$3.8 million made her the fifth best-paid woman in America

## American women break through \$10m pay barrier

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

FEMALE chief executives in American business saw their salaries leap last year, breaking through the multi-million dollar barrier.

Women still earn 71 cents for every dollar earned by men in American business, and only 2 per cent of the best-paid executives are female, but the gains suggest that change is on the way.

The top woman on *Working Woman* magazine's list, fitness executive Linda Wachner, was paid \$11.2 million (£7 million) last year — a far cry from the top-salaried

male executive, Lawrence Coss, who was paid \$65 million.

The number of women in the ranks of best-paid executives at "Fortune 500" companies (the best-known firms in the United States) almost doubled last year.

According to company reports filed with the US Securities and Exchange Commission, the ten best-paid women in US business are:

□ 1: Linda Wachner, Warnaco insurance, \$11.2 million (£7 million) last year — a far cry from the top-salaried

\$6.2 million.

□ 3: Carol Bartz, Autodesk computers, \$5.5 million.

□ 4: Sally Crawford, Healthsource, \$4 million.

□ 5: Estée Lauder, Lauder cosmetics, \$3.8 million.

□ 6: Ngaike Cuneo, Conseco insurance, \$3.7 million.

□ 7: Jane Hirsh, Copley pharmaceuticals, \$3.4 million.

□ 8: Nancy Pedot, Gymboree clothing, \$3.2 million.

□ 9: Donna Karan, Donna Karan fashion, \$2.8 million.

□ 10: Sharon Mates, North American Vaccine, \$2.3 million.

## Williams charge over Senna used liberally in Italy

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

ITALIAN legal experts said yesterday that Frank Williams, the Formula One team leader charged with manslaughter over the death of Ayrton Senna, the world champion, was unlikely to face the full sentence of five years in prison if convicted.

Lawyers said it was probable that he and five other people, due to stand trial in February, would be given suspended prison terms of less than a year.

Manslaughter — in Italian *omicidio colposo*, literally culpable homicide — is a charge frequently brought in Italy in cases where a person is deemed to have contributed to the death of another "through negligence or fault". It is "generally regarded with indulgence", one legal expert said. Often, the defendant is not required to appear in court.

The announcement of Mr Williams' trial raised little interest here, and was dismissed by Italian newspapers yesterday in a few brief paragraphs.

The Italian legal system, based on a combination of Roman law, the Code Napoleon and Fascist-era laws, is notoriously Byzantine and long-winded. Approximately half of all cases brought are eventually thrown out while many others take years to come to court.

The charge against Mr Williams under article 589 of the Italian penal code, which provides for manslaughter charges, comes after a two-year inquiry by the public prosecutor in Bologna, and a review of the evidence by a local examining magistrate, who decided to bring charges.

Senna, a Brazilian and three-times world champion, died on May 1, 1994, when his car crashed at the Imola track during the San Marino Grand Prix. The prosecution will allege that Mr Williams and

others contributed to the driver's death "through negligence or fault" because the steering column had been modified to the point where it snapped as Senna took a curve at high speed. Track officials are also charged because they were responsible for all maintenance at the ground.

Lawyers for the Williams team say the steering column remained intact until the moment of impact, and that the charges are unfounded. Those charged are Mr Williams; Patrick Head, the Williams technical director; Adrian Newey, the team's chief designer; Federico Bendinelli, the Imola race track director; and Giorgio Poggi, a senior track official. The Imola officials also say they bear no responsibility for what happened.

Roberto Causo, a lawyer for the Williams team, said manslaughter was considered a relatively minor offence in Italy. The trial would be heard by a *pretore*, the equivalent of a local magistrate in the English legal system. His judgment will be open to appeal.

Roberto Landi, one of the lawyers for Imola, said: "We will attempt to show that the race track bore no responsibility for what happened."

Legal experts said the charge of manslaughter has even been brought in cases where a mother accidentally suffocated her baby wife sleeping next to it. The maximum sentence of five years is rarely applied, and most cases are judged leniently, sources said.

The trial leaves the future of Formula One in Italy in question. Flavio Briatore, the Benetton team boss, one of the most important men in the sport, said he would be unwilling to race in Italy if Williams was convicted.

Questions over races, page 41

Mansell doubts, page 44

## White rhinos killed in Chinese bungle

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

A PAIR of rare white rhinoceros died because of a bungle after the beasts were sent from the United States to a remote zoo in western China.

The animals, two of about 6,000 surviving, died because of dehydration after five days in blazing heat in an open lorry. The rhinoceroses were a gift from San Diego Zoo, where officials admitted this week that the animals ought never to have left America.

The beasts arrived in Shanghai in mid-July, looking "healthy". However, when rail wagons proved too small for their cages, a lorry was used for the 1,200-mile trip to Chengdu. On July 21, the animals died after five days on the road. The journey would have taken two days by rail.

Song Yunfang, of Chengdu Zoo, said: "Air-conditioned lorries were scarce and we thought since they were tropical animals they should have no problem with the heat. It's very regrettable but we expended all possible efforts."

Within a day, hundreds of pounds of metal was salvaged.

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further analysis. Eventually, they will be buried with the other reclaimed Challenger remains — about 5,000 pieces weighing a quarter-million pounds — in abandoned missile silos at the adjoining Cape Canaveral Air Station.

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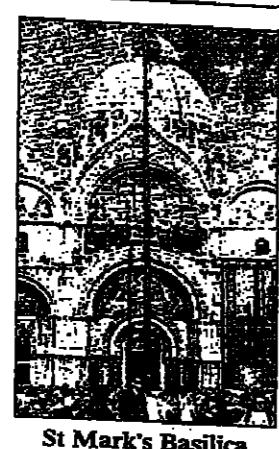
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Senna used  
generally in Italy

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 18 1996



## Lion of St Mark is stolen from altar

FROM RICHARD OWEN  
IN ROME

ST MARK'S Basilica in Venice, once described by John Ruskin as a "treasure-house and confessional of delight", had one less treasure and a bit more confusion yesterday after the theft of an early 17th-century bronze lion.

The loss has symbolic importance for Venice, whose symbol is the Lion of St Mark, usually shown holding a book with the words, allegedly addressed to the evangelist by an angel who appeared to him in the lagoon: *Pax tibi, Marce evangelista meus* (Peace be with you, Mark, my evangelist).

Police said the lion, one of a pair at the foot of an altar in a side chapel, appeared to have been stolen early last Sunday morning. Its absence was not noticed until Sunday evening. Embarrassed officials at the Basilica confirmed the theft yesterday.

Some newspapers speculated that the lion — which was pried off its marble pedestal with a crowbar — was stolen during Mass and that worshippers either did not notice or thought the thieves were workmen.

The bronze lions were cast in 1615 by Gabriele Orlando. Police said their market value was "impossible to calculate". They suggested the lion had either been stolen for a private collector or that the thieves would demand a ransom for its return.

## Juppé rushes into print to insist he is no monster

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

ALAIN JUPPÉ, France's despatcher unpopular Prime Minister, laid bare his inner turmoil in a book published yesterday in which the unloved, thin-skinned Prime Minister declared: "I am not a monster."

M Juppé's *écris de cœur*, entitled *Entre Nous* (Between Ourselves) and written in the space of just four afternoons, is a strange mixture of self-pity, self-deprecation and self-justification.

Early assessments of the slim volume ranged from "honest and uplifting" to "biting" and "cringeworthy".

In 116 pages of large print, M Juppé, 51, laments the way he has been portrayed as an arrogant technocrat, pleads for affection and insists that beneath his cool exterior beats the heart of a passionate man.

"I am not a monster of indifference ... I am less dry and armoured than the newspapers and drawing rooms reckon," he writes, noting that his political colleagues and journalists look at him "as the way people look at a bullfight waiting for the bull to be killed".

"Like all men who take the front of stage, I need recognition, consideration, even affection," he proclaims. "I can make mistakes, I have already made mistakes."

One of these may have been the decision to write this book.



Juppé wrote 116-page book in four afternoons

Leading article, page 17

## Diplomats join strikes over Greek budget

Athens: Thousands of public and private-sector workers, from merchant seamen to diplomats, were out on strike yesterday in a final attempt to get the Greek Socialist Government to ease its 1997 budget — the tightest in 15 years (John Carr writes).

The General Confederation of Labour organised a mass

rally at which people shouted anti-austerity slogans outside the gates of parliament as deputies took their seats for a five-day budget debate.

No surprises are expected in Saturday's vote, even though the Socialists led by Costas Simitis, the Prime Minister, have only a 12-seat majority.

Merchant seamen — angry

over plans to scrap their generous tax privileges — tied up almost half the European Union's commercial fleets in a two-day walkout that began on Monday.

Diplomats are refusing to argue the country's political case abroad, because they are vexed that their entertainment allowances are to be cut.

Striking teachers are extending the school Christmas holiday by at least a week, demanding higher pay rises.

On top of that, Greece's farmers are in the twentieth day of a strike that has cost industry and business about £50 million.

Focuss on Greece, page 31

## Starter's orders for new Bosnia force

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 30,000 troops, including Americans, British and Russians, were given their orders yesterday to begin Operation Joint Guard, the latest military peace mission for Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Faced with another 18 months in Bosnia, the new Stabilisation Force (Sfor), which will also include troops from 17 non-Nato countries, will start officially from tomorrow, when the one-year mandate of the Implementation Force (Ifor) expires.

Yesterday Nato defence ministers approved the activation order for the new force at a meeting in Brussels. Walter Slocombe, American Defence Under-Secretary for policy, said: "The force will continue to be heavily armed and it will have a full range of armoury both to protect itself and, if necessary, to act decisively against violations of the Dayton peace accord that ended the 43-month war in Bosnia."

The new force has no new orders to track down and detain war criminals, despite pressure from The Netherlands and Canada for more powers to arrest those indicted for war crimes.

## Pilot 'given warning'

THE crew of the military aircraft that crashed near Dubrovnik on April 3 killing Ron Brown, the US Commerce Secretary, and 34 other people was warned by a Croatian pilot, who had just landed, to divert to Split because of appalling weather (Michael Evans writes).

The alert came as the US Air Force CT-42A aircraft was descending on its approach to

Earlier Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, gave a warning that the freefall in defence spending throughout the alliance could undermine its ability to act. He spoke out after a Nato defence review showed that the operation in Bosnia had suffered from inadequate intelligence due to lack of money.

Mr Portillo said European defence budgets had dropped to 1.9 per cent of GDP, of which only 14 per cent had been spent on advanced equipment. This compared with American defence spending, equivalent to 3.6 per cent of GDP, with 26 per cent going on new weapons.

The row between America and France over command of Nato's southern forces in Naples remained unresolved. America has refused to countenance surrendering control of the Naples command.

■ Belgrade: President Milošević yesterday met student protesters marching for democracy. It was the first time the Serbian leader has met protesters who have held four weeks of rallies since opposition victories in local polls were overturned. (AP)

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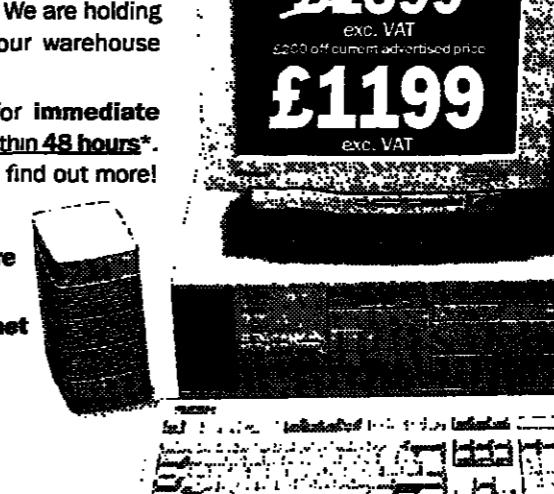
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NEWS IN BRIEF

## Nigerians sold as sex slaves

Brussels: Belgian police have smashed a major prostitution ring involving Nigerian girls brought into the country on forged papers and sold into sexual slavery. The ring also involved Italy, The Netherlands and Germany.

"We know that at least 300 girls passed through this ring," Gendarmerie Captain Bernard Libbrecht said yesterday. So far 12 people have been arrested. (Reuters)

## Casinos to shut

Ankara: Tansu Ciller, the Turkish Deputy Prime Minister, ordered casinos to be shut as part of efforts by the Islamic-led coalition to curb gambling. She said: "Casinos make families suffer." (AP)

## Burma threat

Bangkok: Burma's military Government said Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi is a traitor conspiring with the West and will be destroyed, said an article in the state-run press. (AP)

## Fighting spreads

Mogadishu: The battle for the Somali capital widened when militiamen led by Ali Mahdi Mohamed joined the fighting, which has killed more than 135 people and wounded 900 in five days. (AP)

## Minister jailed

Seoul: Lee Yang Ho, the disgraced former South Korean Defence Minister sacked from the Cabinet in October, was jailed for four years on charges of bribery and leaking military secrets. (Reuters)

## Guerrilla killed

Algiers: Algerian security forces shot dead Brahim Kadi, alias Kaalous, a Muslim guerrilla leader sought for more than 50 murders, the French-language daily *L'Authentique* said. (Reuters)

## Suicide attack

Colombo: A Tamil Tiger suicide bomber killed a senior police commander near the eastern town of Karaiyur, police said. In a separate attack seven soldiers were killed by a landmine. (Reuters)



How Hachfeld in *Le Monde* sees the troubled birth of the European Union's single currency

## Prodi coalition at risk as IMF tells Italy to cut budget deficit by £5bn

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE International Monetary Fund (IMF) yesterday warned the centre-left Government led by Professor Romano Prodi that it will have to shave a further £5 billion off Italy's huge public deficit "as soon as possible" if it hopes to qualify for the European single currency.

The proposed 1997 budget has already led to demonstrations, and commentators have predicted further public protests in the new year if a "supplementary budget" is introduced, posing a possible threat to the Prodi administration.

An IMF team visiting Rome said Italy would have to reform its bloated public sector and cut state support for pensions, welfare and health spending. The Government, which took office in May, has so far avoided cutting the welfare sector for

comfortable majority in the Senate. The budget now returns to the Lower House.

The centre-right Opposition, led by Silvio Berlusconi, said the IMF message, in an end-of-year report on the Italian economy, meant that the country was doomed to "stay outside Europe". Signor Prodi said, however, that the general thrust of the report had approved the Government's handling of the economy and its attempts to reduce the deficit through a combination of spending cuts and tax increases, including a highly unpopular "Euro tax".

Yesterday the Government won a series of confidence votes in the Senate on its controversial budget, which aims to cut the deficit by \$40 billion (£24 billion), but the opposition parties boycotted the vote.

Signor Prodi also faced attacks from his own camp, with Massimo D'Alema, the

leader of the former Communist Party of the Democratic Left, on whose votes it depends in the Lower House.

The centre-right Opposition, led by Silvio Berlusconi, said the IMF message, in an end-of-year report on the Italian economy, meant that the country was doomed to "stay outside Europe". Signor Prodi said, however, that the general thrust of the report had approved the Government's handling of the economy and its attempts to reduce the deficit through a combination of spending cuts and tax increases, including a highly unpopular "Euro tax".

Cesare Romiti, the outspoken and powerful head of Fiat, said Italy was "going through a tragic moment" in its history, with a ruling class deficient in personalities.

"Italians are beginning to realise they do not have even a crumb of hope for the future," he said.

Signor Romiti added that the priority should be growth and job creation rather than a desperate attempt to qualify for European monetary union.

Signor Prodi also faced attacks from his own camp, with Massimo D'Alema,

the centre-left could fall apart, and is preparing the ground for a "national unity government" with Signor Berlusconi.

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THE crew of the military aircraft that crashed near Dubrovnik on April 3 killing Ron Brown, the US Commerce Secretary, and 34 other people was warned by a Croatian pilot, who had just landed, to divert to Split because of appalling weather (Michael Evans writes).  
The alert came

## New Lads lead fashionable pitch invasion

Sportswear has moved off the field and into the high street, says Grace Bradberry

**SPORTSWEAR** is no longer just for the sports field. In the past few years, it has made significant inroads into other areas of men's lives, and has become a huge part of the men's fashion market.

Saturday morning strolls down the high street, Sunday lunches in the pub, and the occasional long walk can now all be undertaken without embarrassment in gear that could easily see you through the entire football season. You don't even have to be fit to get away with it, although it helps to be broad-shouldered.

The rise of the New Lad, with his predilection for "bloke's clothing" has boosted the trend. Television programmes such as *Fantasy Football League*, presented by Nick Skinner and David Baddiel, and *They Think It's All Over*, have also been influential. Spectator sports are now cool, and you need to have the gear. Should you make occasional forays on to the football field, then so much the better.

But once high fashion gets hold of a trend, it can transform it into something you wouldn't feel happy wearing on the terraces. At one end of the spectrum, there's the sort of sportswear that doubles as clubwear. At the other, there's "blokey" sportswear — comfortable, unpretentious, suitable for the rugby club. This is where Timberland comes in. The company has already established itself as a favourite for boots. Men like them. They're *fashionable without being trendy*, and they're eminently practical.

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Spectator sports are cool



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# How bare do you dare?



After 7.00pm



After 8.00pm



After 10.00pm



re WOM  
inkers t



After 9.00pm

Following the basic code of breasts under wraps until the clock strikes eight are top, Helena Bonham Carter, left, and Linda Evangelista; bottom, Joanna Lumley, left, and Caprice

**N**ever has the gap been wider between what most women dare to wear at parties, and what is officially chic. Designers have gone mad for diaphanous this season, and fashion groupies baring all have been making a peculiar spectacle of themselves at otherwise decorous events.

Whatever you do, don't be tempted to join them, unless you have ambitions to be a designer's muse — in which case the more outré the better. Some intelligent women are still very careful about what they reveal at parties. Glance around any society event, and you can spot the new arrivals quite easily. They're the ones trussed up in jackets or cardigans, their eyes flitting nervously round the gathering, lighting on exposed breasts or high necklines.

Once they establish that there is plenty of uncovered flesh about the place, the cardies come off, and the wraps are allowed to fall away from the breasts.

If there's a run of parties, starting with six o'clock cocktails, and moving on via a party to a late dinner, then the anxiety is still more acute. Baring the back at 7pm could be construed as vulgar. But failure to bare it at 9pm could give an impression of frumpiness. If the hosts have gone to a lot of trouble to create high-octane glamour, then you let them down at your peril.

So what degree of nakedness is acceptable, and at what time? To avoid making the flesh check every time you enter a room, the basic code is as follows: at lunch, everything must be

covered. At six o'clock drinks, the skirt rises and the tights become sheer. After seven it's time to reveal the arms. The breasts, however, remain under wraps until eight. As the night goes on, the décolletage reveals itself in full glory.

Current fashion lore, however, flies in the face of this rule. Designers are in love with see-through dresses, visible panty lines, and enormous holes where holes shouldn't be. Even supermodels can't wear it. In the latest issue of *Vogue*, Stella Tennant models a turquoise bra from Agent Provocateur, but confesses: "I bought it to wear underneath a see-through dress but I realised pretty quickly that you can't wear those kinds of things in real life."

Not everyone takes such a sensible view. Last weekend, Liz Hurley attended a screening of her film *Samson and Delilah*, wearing a black Ungaro dress that was not only backless but also transparent. "You could see her bottom

right through it," remarked one observer. Even Miss Hurley, who seems to relish this kind of scrutiny, finally took cover beneath Hugh Grant's jacket.

"As far as I can see, you can go stark naked now," reflects Eva Lewis, social editor of *Tatler*. "Older women in particular do seem to think bare flesh, whatever the state, is attractive to men. Essentially, however, if it looks good, then there's no code."

So while most of us adhere to a conservative convention, it can be astonishing what the beautiful people will get up to. "I've been to lunches where people have been quite dressy and boobs have been shown," says the society fixer Liz Brewer. "Last year we all wore our jackets with an uplift bra and slight cleavage."

Many people, it seems, operate a sliding scale. "To show serious flesh you're looking at nine o'clock, when everyone's sufficiently hazed

over," says Amanda Craig, author of *Vicious Circle*, a novel full of media parties.

"Someone gave me an Yves Saint Laurent white shirt, with slits almost to the armpits," says Jilly Cooper. "It's got a high neck and you can gradually undo the buttons as you go on. By dinner it's practically down to the navel."

In certain circles, however, it is cliché to be over (which means under) dressed in the early evening — it indicates that you are due to appear somewhere grander. "Nowadays people are very understanding," says Eva Lewis. "If you're going to a drinks party, then a grand ball, you'd go to the first party in a ball gown."

**G**enerally, this means sleeveless, and sometimes backless. Camilla Leigh-Pemberton, who runs the party planners *Fait Accompli*, reflects that it wasn't always like this. "In winter, it always used to be the thing to wear dresses with sleeves. But that has changed. You do see people in transparent blouses over bras, and it seems in some staggering way to be sort of acceptable."

Acceptable, perhaps, but rarely attractive. You can't blame designers for indulging in experiments. But don't suppose that every time they attempt to subvert conventional ideas of beauty they carry the entire population with them. For the foreseeable future, a flash of stocking or a glimmering collar-bone will continue to hold more allure than a visible panty line, or a drooping turquoise bra.

## The New Sue Grafton

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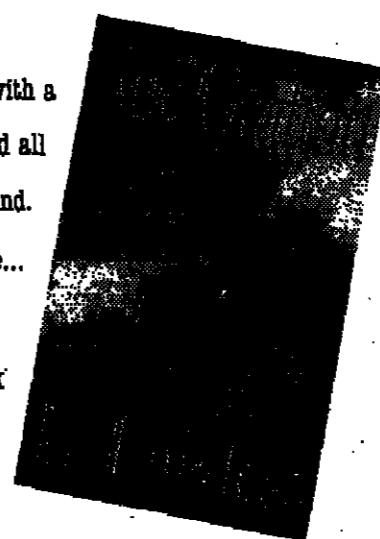
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Peace and contemplation: a woman "must be still as the axis of a wheel in the midst of her activities... a pioneer in achieving this stillness"

## Are women deeper thinkers than men?

A new book which looks at the spiritual life of women reveals some profound differences between the sexes, says Magnus Linklater

**W**hen Aung San Suu Kyi, banned leader of Burma's Opposition party, gave the opening address in Peking last year at the international women's conference, her audience expected a stirring call for democracy or women's rights.

Instead they heard a long and thoughtful speech about the nature of tolerance, the meaning of fear, and the difference between people who are capable of learning and those who are not; she thought it was a more important distinction than the difference between good and evil.

Her speech was as much a philosophical treatise as a political address, centring as it did on the feminine qualities of tolerance, compassion — and the ability to learn. "I am not talking of learning in the narrow sense of acquiring an academic education," she explained, "but of learning as the process of absorbing those lessons of life that enable us to increase peace and happiness

in our world." Her long years of enforced solitude under house arrest had given her time and food for thought, she said; and her conclusion was that women, with their traditional role as mothers and as teachers of their own children, were far better equipped to listen and to learn than men. It was time they turned what was too often a passive virtue into a positive asset for society.

Daw Suu Kyi was not voicing an entirely new idea. Writing 40 years earlier, Anne Morrow Lindbergh, wife of the aviator Charles Lindbergh, suggested that women had a greater capacity for contemplation than men. They turned inwards for strength in a way that men who were so often caught up in the affairs

of the outward world rarely did.

A woman, she wrote, "must be still as the axis of a wheel in the midst of her activities; she must be the pioneer in achieving this stillness, not only for her own salvation, but for the salvation of family life, of society, perhaps even of our civilisation".

**T**o accept that there are inherent differences between the minds of men and women is to venture into dangerous territory. It mirrors the same prejudices that have conditioned social attitudes to women down the centuries — and still exist today. They are the attitudes that programme girls into accepting a different set of expectations and a different status from boys. Real women in the real world are continually conditioned," wrote Germaine Greer in *The Female Eunuch*. "Because the difference is so wholeheartedly believed in, it is also experienced." At its extreme, it may be the unforgiving view of Pythagoras: "There is a good principle which created order, right and man, and an evil principle which created chaos, darkness and women." It can justify the repressive attitudes of fundamentalist religions, and even in its mildest form it may influence the form teacher who automatically assigns the girls to "environmental studies" and the boys to engineering.

A new book which looks at the spiritual life of women down the ages sidesteps this male/female argument, and instead explores the way women have dealt with their inner life. In doing so, it reveals some profound differences in their approach.

Women, it suggests, often

occasionally into a realisation of what lies behind "the cotton wool of daily life".

She talked of the pleasure she got from piecing together an explanation of these moments of shock: "From this I reach what I might call a philosophy... that we are parts of the work of art. *Hamlet* or a Beethoven quartet is the truth about this vast mass we call the world."

"But there is no Shakespeare, there is no Beethoven: certainly and emphatically there is no God; we are the words; we are the music; we are the thing itself."

Some themes emerge — emotion as inseparable from thought, for instance. George Sand wrote: "The best visible effects emerge only from emotion and emotion comes only from conviction. No one is ever loved by something he doesn't ardently believe in."

Simone Weil said: "A poem is beautiful to the precise degree in which the attention whilst it was being composed has been turned towards the inexpressible."

And Isadora Duncan expressed the same thoughts about her own passion in life — dance: "I believe that in each life there is a spiritual line, an upward curve, and all that adheres to and strengthens this line is our real life — the rest is but chaff falling from us as our souls progress."

One subject, however, is notable for its scarcity — men in an age obsessed by "relationships" it may come as something of a shock to find that women consider there may occasionally be more interesting things to explore than the opposite sex. Love, of course, makes regular appearances, but mainly as a route to higher things.

Sometimes their conclusions are deceptively simple, like that of Katherine Anne Porter, the American writer, who nearly died of influenza in the First World War, and experienced what she called "the happy vision just before death". That convinced her that for most of her life she had made the mistake of trying to live like other people. "It took me a long time to realise that that simply wasn't true, that I had my own needs and that I lived for love."

The poet Kathleen Raine, echoing Blake, says that "improvement comes from without" genius summons from within — what we are worth is not what we have, nor even what we have made or done, but what we are. Jane Hamilton, a modern novelist, writes similarly: "... for me God was something within that allowed me, occasionally, to see".

Sometimes they strive towards something more cosmic, like Virginia Woolf, writing about the "exceptional moments" which shock us

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Virginia Woolf

sition of an inner strength, self reliance, and increased spirituality."

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Sometimes they strive towards something more cosmic, like Virginia Woolf, writing about the "exceptional moments" which shock us

Compliments to our chefs may be premature

## The proof of the British pudding

**I**t is as Marco Pierre White says, very flattering. It would be unnatural not to be a bit pleased when the president of the Epicurean World Master Chefs' Society, and a Frenchman to boot, has apparently hailed Britain as the gastronomic centre of the world. And this isn't a compliment from just anyone, you know. Monsieur le President is an eminent chef, one Jean Conil, who served his apprenticeship with Auguste Escoffier. It's rather like having a person who did a training analysis with Freud praising someone's psychoanalytic technique.

But I can imagine these words have made M Conil exactly a hero in his own country, where French culinary supremacy is an article of faith. It's not as if he was happy to leave it at praising the Brits — he came, too, to bury the French. We have people like Marco Pierre White and Gary Rhodes to thank for our new-found culinary eminence. M Conil concludes, whereas

because we have, as M Conil remarks, Marco Pierre White and Gary Rhodes [I'd throw in Gordon Ramsay and Alastair Little while we are counting home-grown blessings, and there are a few more too] we presume the general level of cooking in this country to be higher than it is. It is undoubtedly the case that we have very many good restaurants and that there is a growing number of homes in which food and cooking are reckoned important, but it is just as true that we consume an ever-increasing number of microwave meals and dinners bought from the chill-cook cabinet.

I don't doubt that there is an enormous interest in food now in this country. What I question is how much of society this interest permeates or, indeed, how far, culinarily speaking, this interest takes us. You don't measure a nation's culinary health by judging its professional kitchens, but by looking at how ordinary people eat at home. France may have earned its gastronomic reputation by its Michelin-starred restaurants, but the heart of its cuisine is learnt at Maman's or Grandmaman's knee.

And if there is a decline in restaurants in France it is not so much, as M Conil, sadly declares, that the great chefs can't afford the ingredients that would do justice to their talents (we do know, after all, about bad workers and so forth) but that sons and daughters won't work for nothing in their parents' restaurants any more, so those cheap and extraordinarily good family establishments are going by the board. It is that culture that is dying out.

Food and cooking have improved here, but it is still the case that the produce is very much better in, say, France or Italy. I am not talking about luxury comestibles (everything is available everywhere now) but about everyday fruit and veg. What is more, people are not really prepared to pay for food to be better. I'm not talking about people who can't afford more, but those who could. When I interviewed that passionate fishmonger Steve Hatt some years back, he told me that so much of our best fish went abroad because no one here would pay what it costs in the shops. And all the time, independent butchers are going out of business because people would rather buy plastic-wrapped, fat-trimmed, tasteless meat from the supermarket. Good products isn't cheap — but you can't eat well unless you get good raw ingredients and that is the end of it.

**H**aving read M Conil's comments a little more closely, I see that money is, in some part, the motivation behind them, too. It is so hard to make a living out of cooking well that it is hardly surprising if most chefs are obsessed with making money, when so few of them ever will. Anton Mosimann once wrote movingly of his horror at the widow of a great chef having to sell his knives to survive. So it is to be expected that M Conil's real admiration lies in the entrepreneurial flair of the British chef. He notes how many make money and, more, how many become millionaires.

I don't want to be a party-pooper and praise is of course gratifying, but we should not allow ourselves to be patronised by a state of such unjustified complacency.



Nigella Lawson

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## WHIPPED SENSELESS

A stupid piece of double-dealing does yet more damage

All is not fair in love and politics. Whatever the state of the Government's majority, and however close the general election, there are some levels to which no whip should stoop. David Willetts's overzealous attempt to nobble the chairman of a procedural committee pales as a sin beside Monday night's fiddling of Commons vote.

Last night this blatant deceit tested the usually seamless skills of the Secretary of State for Rebuttals, Michael Heseltine. Visibly floundering, he could find no words to defend the behaviour of the Conservative whip, Derek Conway, who had paired three Tory MPs with a Labour and Liberal Democrat each, thus ensuring that two Opposition MPs would be absent for every Member away on his side. Had the Ulster Unionists voted the other way on Monday's fishing motion, this chicanery would have turned a defeat for the Government into a one-vote victory.

That must have been the intended outcome, since the arrangements were made long before the whips knew whether to expect support from the Unionists. The Government's recent attempt to prevent a debate on the single currency regulations showed how terrified party managers have become of losing Commons votes. But to resort to cheating of such a kind can only be self-destructive.

Coming so soon after the revival of sleaze in the public mind, it merely reinforces the image of an administration that is prepared to put morality aside if it proves inconvenient. Even the more cynical of Conser-

vatives were aghast at the trick, since it was almost bound to be exposed. Sure enough, after the unexpectedly large margin of victory on Monday, opposition whips conducted a post mortem. Once the figures failed to tally, Labour and Liberal Democrats consulted and the truth was out.

Not only will this imbroglio tarnish the Tories' reputation and sap morale on their benches, it has also given the opposition parties the pretence that they needed to make life even harder for the Government when Parliament returns in the New Year. Tony Blair has been tempted for some time to withdraw co-operation in the Commons in order to harry an already tense party. He needed an excuse. Now he has one.

With hindsight, Mr Conway's deception was not necessary, as the Unionists voted with the Government anyway. But even with foresight, it was an appalling mistake.

Had the Conservatives again lost the fisheries vote, they might have made it look like a traditional December event, as predictable as it was insignificant for policy. Then Mr Blair would have had his bluff called. Either he would have had to hold a vote of confidence which he would almost certainly have lost, or he would have risked looking as if he were running scared.

Instead it is the Tories who are afraid of holding an unductored vote on a controversial issue. Labour must be delighted by how little it needs to do to expose the weaknesses in John Major's party. Merely standing back and watching the Conservatives self-destruct seems to do the trick.

## ADMISSIBLE EVIDENCE

Say it quietly: Saunders deserves his human rights

The martyr's robe sits uncomfortably on Ernest Saunders's surprisingly robust frame. The former Guinness chairman, having put his doctored successfully behind him, yesterday secured satisfaction of sorts in Strasbourg. The European Court of Human Rights ruled that his conviction for fraud was a violation of his human rights. The Court denied him a payment in compensation, however, arguing that vindication in law should be enough.

It will be galling to many to see Mr Saunders proclaim himself a victim of injustice. The deception involved in the Guinness takeover of Distillers encapsulated some of the least attractive of old and new City practices in the Eighties. But, uncomfortable though it may be to accept, the Strasbourg judges are right and Mr Saunders's rights have been infringed. The test of a justice system is its ability to apply the dignity of due process to all.

Mr Saunders was convicted by a court which heard evidence obtained under duress. That evidence was extracted by the Department of Trade and Industry while investigating the Distillers takeover in 1987. The DTI, as a regulatory body rather than a criminal prosecutor, has the power to compel an individual to answer. The evidence gathered in this way was then passed on to the police and led to a criminal prosecution. Mr Saunders believes this evidence prejudiced his case. The Government argues that he would have been convicted even without it. Whoever is correct about the importance of the evidence there should be no doubt that it was wrong to reveal it in criminal proceedings.

It is sometimes appropriate for certain agencies to gather evidence which will be used to enforce regulatory powers, or aid further criminal investigation, but which cannot in itself be directly admitted in the course of criminal prosecution. A body such as the DTI is entitled to use exceptional powers when investigating, for example, the circumstances of a takeover or whether an individual is fit to be a company director. Different standards, however, should apply.

## ENTRE NOUS

My country does not understand me

Alain Juppé's passionate *cri* from a wounded *cœur* must rank as one of the most bizarre pleas of postwar politics, the living exemplar of the heat-sensitive person who, Harry Truman believed, should best get out of the kitchen. The French Prime Minister believes he is a maligned and misunderstood man — a passionate, sensitive soul who wants only to be liked and trusted but who is unfairly portrayed as a desicated calculating machine. So pained is this cultured intellectual that he has revealed his torment in 116 pages of exquisitely refined self-pity. "I am not a monster of indifference," he tells his readers. He is less armour-plated than those arbiters of *haute* society, the newspapers and Parisian salons, who, like him, unlike a computer, can make mistakes.

Wearing your heart on the sleeve of a slim volume has an honourable history in France. From Héloïse and Abelard to Gérard de Nerval and Verlaine, those pierced by the arrows of love or fate have let their readers into their suffering. And most have made a fine profit from it. M Juppé believes that he, too, can share his hidden hurt with an intimate audience of 57 million French citizens and has coyly entitled his *œuvre*, wrung from him during four Sunday afternoons of literary labour, *Entre Nous*. If he can also stave off dismissal by President Chirac, or win the benefit of the doubt while cutting bloated bureaucracies,

all to the good. Maybe the French, whose upper lips curl in grief, laughter or disdain more easily than those of many nations, will be indulgent to their suffering Prime Minister; if so, the diatribe inspired by the contempt of a pretty woman on a Bordeaux street will have paid off.

It is hard to see the tactic working on this side of the Channel. Would a John Major apology — *My Not Inconsiderable Achievement* — tell us of his pain at being coloured grey, his love of cricket, humiliation at questions about O-levels and the agonies he suffers at not ruling out economic and monetary union? And would it boost his poll ratings?

British politicians do venture into print, and rather more often than voters would like. Their confessions, however, rarely lift the lid on their tortured souls, or indeed on anything. The titles usually give away the content-free contents; *Ministers Decide* by Sir Norman Fowler is often seen as the classic in the genre. Few British Prime Ministers sit down at the word processor until the care of office have been shed. Even those who were subjected to calumny and lampooning have told us little of how they felt. Sir Alec Douglas-Home wrote about fishing. Eden about his father and Churchill gave us history books. M Juppé comes from a different, confessional tradition. But for all his personal pleading, he may find his countrymen a nation of literary *ingrats*.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Child labour and trade agreements

From Mr Bill Linton

Sir, Your leading article today, "Trad-ed away", is dismissive of the World Trade Organisation's obligation to oppose "exploitative" child labour, which you suggest is more appropriate to the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

Of course it is true that in many cases either poor children work or they and their families starve, but that merely means that the solutions have to be a bit less simplistic than just boycotting goods produced by child labour. Export industries only account for about 5 per cent of the problem anyway.

It so happens that this very issue is addressed by Unicef in its report published today, *State of the World's Children 1997*. This report advocates a three-pronged attack on child labour: releasing children immediately from the most damaging situations, eg, prostitution and bonded labour; the rehabilitation of children released from work, especially by education; and the protection of children who cannot be released.

The right way to go about it is illustrated by an agreement reached last year in Bangladesh between Unicef, the ILO and the Bangladeshi garment manufacturers, under which all children under 14 are removed from factories and placed in schools, with a stipend as compensation for loss of income. The agreement stipulates that no further children will be hired and that the jobs previously done by children are offered to suitable adult members of their families.

Yours faithfully,  
BILL LINTON,  
39a Fox Lane, Palmers Green, N13.  
December 11.

From Mr David Knight

Sir, Given that a mere 5 per cent of the world's estimated 250 million working children are employed (if that is the right word) in export industries, and that unforeseen consequences of past trade sanctions have included child factory workers being forced into prostitution to replace their income, your suggestion that opposition to exploitative child labour is not an appropriate task for the World Trade Organisation is possibly right.

On the other hand, I have just heard on Radio 4 that the Metropolitan Police are to be issued with a confidential corruption hotline card, inscribed with the immortal legend: "All it takes for evil to flourish is for good men to do nothing."

Yours sincerely,  
DAVID KNIGHT,  
Higher Trewoofe,  
Lamorna, Penzance, Cornwall.  
December 11.

From Ms Christine Whitehead

Sir, It is wrong to use Third World concerns about linking labour conditions to trade agreements as an excuse not to consider implementing a social clause through the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

Whilst Third World anxieties are understandable, if such a clause is implemented in the way advocated by Oxfam and many other concerned organisations, its introduction through the WTO would not be a cover for protectionism. The only protection this move would supply would be for the basic rights of substantial numbers of the world's poor.

For decades now governments have signed up to ILO conventions, which aim to protect the basic rights of workers. The crucial problem is that the ILO has no "teeth" with which to ensure that governments keep to these agreements in practice — which some do not. The WTO can supply these teeth, with the threat of sanctions as a very last resort, while the ILO — which represents workers, employers and governments both in the north and south — would oversee the implementation of such a clause. This would ensure that it does not become a protectionist tool in the hands of the strongest economic powers.

A social clause is not about setting wage levels. Rather it would give workers the right to freedom of association and collective bargaining, empowering them to negotiate their own wage levels and decent conditions, whilst fully aware of the need not to frighten away investors.

Yours sincerely,  
C. E. WHITEHEAD  
(Senior Policy Advisor),  
Oxfam UK & Ireland,  
274 Banbury Road, Oxford.  
December 10.

### Fully furnished

From Mr Edward Thomas

Sir, You publish a letter today from five people discussing the NHS. Three describe themselves as Chairs, two as Joint Chairs. Surely the latter could have merged to form a settee and then all five could have collectively characterised themselves as a suite of furniture.

It's just a thought.  
Yours truly,  
EDWARD THOMAS,  
Flat 4, 21 Jevington Gardens,  
Eastbourne, East Sussex.  
December 10.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

### Dissent on contest to build 'inhabited' Thames bridge

From Professor Gerald Dix

Sir, It is indeed surprising to read in Marcus Binney's report (December 10) that *not content with being an assessor in the Royal Academy's competition to design a habitable Thames bridge*, Mr Gummer has "come out strongly" in favour of the design submitted by M Antoine Grumbach.

As Mr Binney remarks, this is a highly controversial development proposal, which, were it to be built, would dominate the view from Waterloo Bridge of the dome of St Paul's.

In accordance with the well tried procedures for the examination of schemes of this kind, responsibility for the final decision, based on evaluation of evidence presented at a public inquiry, rests with the Secretary of State for the Environment. But what confidence can one have in the outcome when the ultimate appeal judge has declared his views before the presentation of the evidence?

Unless the situation is pre-empted by a statement of his wishes by the Prince of Wales, who has significant influence but lacks statutory authority — or possibly by the arrival of a new secretary of state following a general election — Mr Gummer should surely state now that he intends to take no further part whatsoever in this case, or he should resign, possibly both.

Yours faithfully,  
GERALD DIX  
(Professor Emeritus of Civic Design,  
University of Liverpool),  
13 Friars Quay, Norwich, Norfolk.  
December 12.

From Mr Andrew Hamilton

Sir, As one of those who attended the Royal Academy exhibition and found

all seven of the proposed designs for an "inhabited" bridge totally inappropriate, I would love to know the proportion of spoiled papers. M Grumbach's bridge is no more "inhabited" than the rather more elegant proposal from Sir Norman Foster and Sir Anthony Caro half a mile downstream (report, December 11).

The "inhabited" element is a grotesque 35-storey tower built alongside Temple Gardens on the Embankment — one of the few remaining oases of architectural elegance on the Thames waterfront.

Yours faithfully,  
ANDREW HAMILTON,  
8 Carlyle Square, SW3.  
December 13.

From Sir Jonathan Mance

Sir, You report that the public has voted 2-1 in favour of Antoine Grumbach's "controversial" 35-storey tower in the Royal Academy's competition for the design of a habitable bridge across the Thames from Temple Gardens to the London Weekend Television tower. What is controversial is whether this is the right place for any bridge, let alone one incorporating so large a structure.

The vote conducted at the Royal Academy did not address that issue. The voting form presented a choice of seven designs, with no opportunity for dissent or comment on the principle or siting, unless by any who (like myself) wrote upon it: "Wrong bridge on the wrong place".

The proposed structure is certainly "daring". It would spoil the broad sweep and the tree-lined embankment of the river between Waterloo and Blackfriars bridges, interfere with a famous view of the City, and of St

Paul's in particular, and dominate the historic Temple quarter.

I hope, as a member of the Middle Temple, that I shall not be thought guilty of nimbyism if I commend Sir Norman Foster's concept, involving a simple pedestrian bridge, running further downstream, between the steps leading up to St Paul's Cathedral and the Tate Gallery's Banksy power station.

I walk this stretch of the river just as frequently as the Temple reach. It offers considerable scope for an attractive and useful crossing.

Yours faithfully,  
JONATHAN MANCE,  
St Dunstan's House,  
Fetter Lane, EC4.

From Mr G. de la Bédoyère

Sir, If London is to have a purely pedestrian bridge it will not be the first, as Marcus Binney reports. The present Hungerford Railway Bridge between Waterloo and Charing Cross stands on the site of, and incorporates parts of, Brunel's sadly short-lived suspension footbridge, built between 1841 and 1845 to serve Hungerford market on the north side of the river. Demolished in 1863, its chains were re-used on the Clifton suspension bridge.

Almost every engineering project, it seems, was at least thought of first by a Victorian. And, no doubt the vociferous road lobby will ensure that a new footbridge is similarly shortened before being incorporated into a six-lane superbridge for cross-London lorry traffic.

Yours faithfully,  
G. de la BEDOYERE,  
20 Eltham Park Gardens, SE9.  
December 10.

### Weather check

From Mr A. R. Marks

Sir, As one of a growing number of the Met Office's commercial customers I would welcome independent verification of the forecasts provided (report, December 9). We have never been given a precise assessment for the accuracy of forecasts given to us under our contract — they claim in excess of 80 per cent; we calculate 61.7.

While it is true that the National Audit Office monitors Met Office performance, this does not extend to the accuracy of its forecasts. The NAO report of August 1995 said:

There has been no independent verification of the Met Office's performance and there is scope for greater objectivity in the verification of some forecasts.

Incidentally, the same report acknowledged the Treasury's calculation that the financial benefit to the country provided by the Met Office's services was three times its cost to the taxpayer. One well-founded estimate put this figure at 20 times the cost, ie, benefits approaching £1.5 billion.

Yours faithfully,  
A. R. MARKS (Partner),  
Skyscan (aerial photography),  
Oak House, Toddington,  
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.  
December 11.

### Lincoln Cathedral

From the Reverend  
Malcolm A. Johnson

Sir, Much sympathy must be felt for the Bishop of Lincoln, who has decided not to preach in his cathedral at Christmas (report, December 17). Would it not be possible for him temporarily to move his chair, his *cathedra*, to another large church in the city or county so that his people who love and respect him so much could be with him and he could be with them?

Yours sincerely,  
MALCOLM JOHNSON  
(Master), The Royal Foundation  
of Saint Katherine,  
2 Butcher Row, E14.  
December 17.

### Swan Lake overflowing

From Miss Jane Pritchard

Sir, Tchaikovsky may be rejoicing that Matthew Bourne's unorthodox "alternative" Swan Lake has just passed the 100-performance mark (article, Arts, December 10), but it still has some way to go before it can claim to be the longest run of a single ballet ever to play the West End.

Opening on 22 May, 1885, Luigi Manzotti's three-act *Excelsior* ran for 169 performances at Her Majesty's Theatre, with such principal dancers as Adelina Rossi, Giovanna Limido, Kate Vaughan and Enrico Ceccetti.

Yours faithfully,  
JANE PRITCHARD (Archivist),  
Rambert Dance Company,  
94 Chiswick High Road, W4.  
December 11.

### The polly and the ivy

From Mr Brian Drevitt

Sir, While visiting a pet shop in Macclesfield yesterday, I was exhorted by a display card to "Treat yourself to a parrot this Christmas".

In the light of your report about frozen turkeys today, this might be an offer worth taking.

Yours faithfully,  
BRIAN DREVITT,  
Lawrence Buildings,  
2 Mount Street, Manchester.  
December 13.



## COURT CIRCULAR

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
December 17: The Rt Hon John Major MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) had an audience with the Queen this evening.

Lieutenant-Colonel Cecil Tanner (Deputy Lieutenant of Bedfordshire) was present at Luton International Airport this afternoon upon the Arrival of The President of the State of Eritrea and welcomed His Excellency on behalf of Her Majesty.

The Lady Elton has succeeded the Lady Susan Hussey as Lady in Waiting to the Queen.

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
December 17: The Duke of York today undertook a series of engagements as Colonel-in-Chief, The Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's) at Stonecutters Island, Hong Kong.

His Royal Highness this morning took the Salute at the Fersozesh Parade.

The Duke of York this afternoon visited Battalion locations at High Island.

His Royal Highness this evening attended the Fersozesh Dinner given by the Battalion.

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
December 17: The Princess

Royal Patron, College of Occupational Therapists, this afternoon opened the new Occupational Therapy Resource Centre at the Maudsley Hospital, Denmark Hill, London SE5.

**CLARENCE HOUSE**  
December 17: Dame Frances Campbell-Preston has succeeded the Hon Mrs Rhodes as Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

**ST JAMES'S PALACE**  
December 17: The Prince of Wales this afternoon received the Archbishop of Canterbury.

His Royal Highness, President, the Bach Choir, this evening attended a recital at St James's Palace.

**YORK HOUSE**  
**ST JAMES'S PALACE**  
December 17: The Duke of Kent this evening attended the Bach Choir Carol Concert, in the State Apartments, St James's Palace, London SW1.

**THATCHED HOUSE LODGE**

**RICHMOND PARK**  
December 17: Princess Alexandra, accompanied by the Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy, this evening attended the Joy to the World Christmas Celebration at the Royal Albert Hall, London SW7.



This set of wooden nativity figures, on display in a church near Stratford-upon-Avon, were carved by Jim Cooper, a 53-year-old building manager who turned his hobby of wood carving into a successful business after he was made redundant two years ago. He now works from the Custard Factory arts complex in Birmingham.

### Luncheons

**HM Government**  
The Hon Nicholas Soames, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, was the host at a luncheon given by Her Majesty's Government yesterday at Lancaster House for the First Deputy Minister for National Defence of Poland.

**American Chamber of Commerce (UK)**

Sir Brian Goswell, President of the American Chamber of Commerce (UK) presided at a Christmas luncheon held yesterday at the Inter-Continental Hotel.

### Church news

**Turners' Company**  
The Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs were the guests of honour at a dinner given by the Master and Wardens of the Turners' Company last night at Apothecaries' Hall. Mr J.N. Ciclitira, Master, presided and presented the Lord Mayor with a silver embellished turned burr-walnut bowl. A guard of honour was found by the winning team from 78 Engineer Regiment Workshop REME (V) who received the Turners' Shield from the Master.

Among others present were:

Viscount and Viscountess Chelsea, Bishop of London, Mrs Charles, Lord Sterling of Plasman, Sir Maurice and Lady Connell, Sir William and Lady Goswell, Sir William and Lady Walker, Dr Michael and Lady Walker, QC, Mr George Stack, Probendary, William Maynard Allerton, Mr and Mrs Michael Major and Mrs Michael Henderson, Miss Karen Beckinsale, Miss Jennifer Dill, Mr and Mrs Michael Barbara Horne, Mr Alan Jones, Mr John Sessions and Mr Timothy West.

**Dinner**

The Rev Robert Pestell, Assistant Curate, St Katharine's, Mansion to be Prost-in-Charge, Chafford Colchester.

The Rev Eric Pollard, formerly Curate, St Swithun, East Grinstead; now Assistant Curate, All Saints, Hove (Chichester).

The Rev Jennifer Power, Assistant Curate (NSM), St Nicholas, Wickham; to be Assistant Curate (NSM), St Cuthbert, Copnor (Portsmouth).

The Rev Nick Ralph, Assistant Curate, St Cuthbert, Copnor; to be Vicar, new plurality of Eastgate, St Andrew's North Hayling, St Peter (Portsmouth).

The Rev Michael Stone, now Assistant Curate, Chichester Team Ministry (Chichester).

Rev Fred Trehewy, Vicar, Brockmoor; to be also Rural Dean of Hinckley (Worcester).

The revolts of Boadicea took place after she and her family were

## Romans come out of the woodwork

By NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

THE oldest Roman structure yet found in London has been discovered close to London Bridge. Dated by tree rings to AD 52, only nine years after the Roman conquest, it marks the beginning of the City waterfront as a place of trade.

The discovery was made during redevelopment of the Regis House site, just upstream from the bridge and flanking the main Roman road south from the Forum across the Thames. A revetment was built on the foreshore with timber piles and planks, straightening out the irregular bank and providing a solid foundation for development beside the bridge.

Several timbers have been dated by dendrochronological analysis to AD 52, which means that this is the earliest recorded structure in London. Trevor Brigham and his colleagues report in *London Archaeologist*.

"The west end of the revetment contains reused timbers, including two pointed palisade or fence posts, which should take the earliest activity several years closer to the Roman Conquest."

A slightly later quay south from the site has been dated to AD 63 by its tree rings: the trees were felled in the winter or spring. "It is now clear that reconstruction of London after the Boadicean destruction of AD 60 began almost immediately," the excavators write.

A set of warehouses was built during Nero's reign on the quay, each bay being around 33 by 14 feet. They were later demolished, to be rebuilt in mud-brick, perhaps because the ground was unstable. The mud-brick walls, a rare survival, stand nearly 3ft high in places.

The revolt of Boadicea took

place after she and her family were

humbled by the Romans: their army swept south from Norfolk and burnt both Camulodunum (Colchester) and London before their defeat. The new quay was solidly built of squared oak baulks, carefully linked by notch-and-tenon joints; some of the timbers still had felling and lifting notches visible.

The material used to fill in the quarry behind this timber frontage has excited the archaeologists, who describe it as "a large potential resource of artefacts from the first 15 years of Roman settlement". Among the finds have been coins, a section of Roman armour, and a leather bag containing seeds of caraway.

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The material used to fill in

## OBITUARIES

## QUENTIN BELL

Quentin Bell, artist and author, died on December 16 aged 86. He was born on August 19, 1910.

The second son of Clive and Vanessa Bell, Quentin Bell was born into the heart of the Bloomsbury Group. In the year of his birth Roger Fry, his mother's intimate friend, was championing the first Post-Impressionist exhibition. Raised among painters, critics and writers — his mother was the sister of Virginia Woolf — Bell assumed from an early age that he, too, would be an artist.

Quentin Claudian Stephen Bell was brought up in Gordon Square in Bloomsbury and in Sussex. In 1916 Vanessa Bell took a lease on Charleston Farmhouse, near Firle. At first it was used for family holidays but later it became a permanent home.

At Charleston she established a stable, if unorthodox, household, shared with fellow-painted Duncan Grant (the father of Bell's sister Angelica) and, at different times, other members of the Bloomsbury Group and Grant's homosexual lovers. With his elder brother, Bell as a child produced a family newspaper, the *Charleston Bulletin*, which charted domestic events; Virginia Woolf contributed.

He was educated at Peterborough Lodge, a preparatory school at Swiss Cottage, to which he went as a day boy from 46 Gordon Square, and at the Quakers' Leighton Park, after which he studied painting in Paris and Rome.

By the early 1930s he was an active Labour supporter and an equally active disrupter of Fascist rallies, in which he was aided by his considerable height and bulk. His aunt Virginia described him as a young man as being "very burly and male", and like a red and white sheep dog. She thought he had "all Ness's sense, and Clive's shrewdness". His eyes were very blue, and his red-gold hair, according to an elderly Duckworth relation, like "a bed of Zinnias" (in his old age, less burly and with a full white beard, he looked like a clever, kindly Father Christmas.)

In 1933 Bell suffered from a tubercular infection which necessitated a convalescence in Switzerland. On his return he studied pottery with T.A. Fernemore at Stoke-on-Trent and had a kiln built in the

workshop at Charleston. Politically, he shared Fernemore's support for industrial art — Vanessa, Duncan and even the young Angelica contributed to Fernemore's series of artist-designed tableware for Foley China — but he returned ultimately to the Bell-Grant celebration of the handmade. He threw shapes for decoration by his mother and Duncan, and, in later years could not always distinguish between their hands and his own.

Bell then divided his considerable energies between painting, potting and politics. In 1930 he had exhibited in a mixed show at the Mansard Gallery on the top floor of Heal's in Tottenham Court Road, and had an exhibition of collages in Cork Street in 1935.

He designed posters appealing for medical aid for Spain during the Civil War, and with his mother visited Picasso in his Paris studio — where they saw the as yet unfinished masterpiece *Guernica* — to invite him to London to appeal for aid for the children of Bilbao. Bell's elder brother Julian was killed in Spain working for the ambulance service on the Republican side.

Bell, unlike many of the members of Old Bloomsbury, was not a conscientious objector. He was rejected by the Army on account of his history of tuberculosis. During the Second World War he worked as a farm labourer for Maynard Keynes at Tilton. From 1941 to 1943 he was a member of the Political Warfare Executive.

The life-sized effigy of Hitler burnt on Firle Beacon at the end of the war was his handiwork. Also during the war he collaborated with Vanessa Bell, Duncan Grant and his sister Angelica on the decoration of Berwick church, two miles from Charleston. His contributions were the six small panels representing the sacraments on the inside of the chancel screen, and *The Wise and Foolish Virgins* over the chancel arch; later, he did some murals and the altarpiece.

In 1947 Bell published his first book, *On Human Finery*, about fashion, in dress — a subject that was to be extended into a lifelong consideration of changing tastes and fluctuating reputations in art.

In 1951 he published *These Impossible English* (with Helmut Gerlach), and married Anne Olivier Popple. The following year he



became a lecturer in Art Education at King's College, Newcastle upon Tyne, where Lawrence Gowing was then Professor of Fine Art.

In spite of having had no academic training himself, Bell moved on to university posts of increasing illustriousness. He was Professor of Fine Art at the University of Leeds, 1962-67; Slade Professor of Fine Art at Oxford, 1964-65; and Fergus Professor of Fine

Art at the University of Hull, 1965-66. In 1967 he moved back to his home territory as Professor of the History and Theory of Art at Sussex University, a post he held for ten years, living with his family at Cobble Place, Beddingham. When Cobble Place finally became impracticable, the Bells moved to their last home, in Firle village.

The last major show of his own work was in 1986. He

never stopped painting, potting and writing. He published *Roger Montane* in 1961; *The Schools of Design and Ruskin*, both in 1963; *Victorian Artists* (1967); *Bloomsbury* (1968); *A New and Noble School* (1982); *Techniques of Terracotta* (1983).

His novel *The Brandon Papers* typified his humour and versatility, it starts with an inquiry into the death of a titled lady and develops into a full-blooded Gothic melodrama.

Just before the Second World War, during an evening of amateur dramatics at Charleston, the young Quentin Bell dressed up in a frock, fur coat and lipstick, to act the part of a guide showing a party of American and French ladies round the house in the year 2036. The cult of Charleston did not take so long to establish itself as that. The Charleston Trust, of which he was the first chairman, opened the house to the public in 1986.

Living all his life under the shadow of Bloomsbury, Bell was the curator, and to some extent the creator, of its growing legend. At Leonard Woolf's request he undertook the biography of Virginia Woolf — no easy task for a nephew — which, published in two volumes in 1972, won both the James Tait Black prize and the Duff Cooper memorial prize. His wife Olivier is the editor of Virginia Woolf's diaries. They have documented Bloomsbury with scrupulous care and respect.

Although always courteous, he was rightly impatient of worshippers at the Bloomsbury shrine who came "to ask what Virginia had for breakfast". But he was welcoming and generous to those who shared his irreverent enthusiasm for art.

For Bell, as for Roger Fry, the purpose of art was to communicate joy. He enjoyed throwing and experimenting with the clay and with the decorative possibilities of robust but humble shapes such as mugs or tea-pots, and rather despised the lack of frivolity in the "prim and proper" pots made by Bernard Leach's followers.

He believed that a certain carelessness betrayed the vitality of the maker and saw nothing wrong with the vulgarity of adding a slab of gold to enliven the pot. Despite the sophistication of his writings and teaching, pottery remained for him "rather a lark" and he rather liked it.

During the 1980s, Bell received technical assistance from the Fulham Pottery, making both domestic wares, exhibited at Liberty's and other London galleries, and larger commissions such as a fountain for a Sussex garden. The Fulham Pottery also made hand-painted ceramics for Laura Ashley's "Bloomsbury" range to his designs.

He expressed his more private thoughts in the medium of sculpture those who had seen the huge levitating lady who defied gravity in the garden at Cobble Place — another cast graces the campus at Leeds University — or the romantic and sexual fantasies expressed in his painted terracotta groups and figures.

The dark undercurrents of that late novel, *The Brandon Papers*.

For a long time it seemed as if the world would be deprived of his own memoirs, but in 1995 he filed that gap with his volume of reminiscence, *Elvers and Bettors*. His penultimate book *Bad Art* (1999) — a collection of his lectures, essays and articles — also contained a lively autobiographical chapter. In his earlier years he wrote a good deal for the *New Statesman* in Kingsley Martin's day and for *The Listener* during the celebrated reign of J.R. Ackerley as literary editor.

Quentin Bell is survived by his wife Olivier, whom he married in 1952, their two daughters and a son.

## RUBY MURRAY

Ruby Murray, Irish singer, died from bronchial pneumonia and liver cancer yesterday aged 61. She was born on March 29, 1935.

IN THE ephemeral world of popular music, Ruby Murray was a phenomenon who earned her place in the *Guinness Book of Theatrical Records*. A singer whose simplistic style disguised skillful phrasing and far greater vocal resources than her appealing huskiness suggested, she achieved massive popularity at the start of her meteoric career, when five of her recordings were simultaneously in the Top Twenty for three months at the beginning of 1958.

One of them, the haunting *Sofify Sofify*, went to No 1 and became her indelible signature tune for the rest of her life. Her feet remain a world record, equalled since by Elvis Presley and Madonna, but unsurpassed by even the Beatles.

Ruby Florence Campbell Murray was born at 84 Moltick Street, Donegal Road, Belfast, the youngest of four children. She gave her first public performances as a child in amateur concerts presented by her father at the Ulster Hall. One of these was seen by the British television producer, Richard Afton, who booked her for her professional debut, aged 12, on Irish television.

After leaving school at 14, she worked in a bakery, a handkerchief factory and a sweet shop before touring Northern Ireland in the variety show, *Top Flight Stars*. At 14, she appeared at the Glasgow Winter in the summer season revue, *Mrs Mulligan's Hotel*, returning home to tour Northern Ireland again in a hired lorry in *Holiday Express*.

At 16 she was chosen as the singer for a revue touring the Republic of Ireland, *Yankee Doodle Blarney*. In June 1954, the tour ended in London at the old Metropolitan Music Hall, in Edgware Road. Richard Afton, looking for a singer to replace Joan Regan in his BBC television series, *Quite*

Contrary, offered her the job at £100 a week, six times what she was earning at the time.

The British record producer Ray Martin saw Murray's first television show and at once signed her for a recording contract on the Columbia UK label. Her first release, *Get Well Soon*, was not a big seller, but her second, *Heartbeat*, went straight to No 2 in the charts. It was followed by *Sofify Sofify*, which went to No 1. A wistful love ballad sung with her inimitable Irish



lilt and that husky catch in her voice, it personified the vulnerability and innocence that made her unique among the popular singers of the 1950s.

Three more hits joined the first two in the Top Twenty: *Happy Days and Lonely Nights*, which went to No 4, *If Anyone Finds This I Love You* to No 5, and *Evermore* to No 6. Signed up by Bernard Delfont's agency, she started to pack theatres all over Britain, and in August 1955 opened at the London Palladium in *Painting the Town*, which co-starred Norman Wisdom. They were married in 1953.

Although her later appearances were often undermined by health problems, she never gave up her fight to conquer her illness. In 1985 she received a prolonged ovation when she appeared before the Princess Royal in *Forty Years of Peace*.

Both her husbands were at her hospital bedside, with her son — the singer Tim Murray — and her daughter Julie, when she died.

## PERSONAL COLUMN

## FOR SALE

## OVERSEAS TRAVEL

## UK HOLIDAYS

## WINTER SPORTS

## MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

## 100'S

## TUITION &amp; COURSES

## ANTIQUES &amp; COLLECTABLES

## GIFTS

## AIRLINK WORLDWIDE

## CHRISTMAS PAYRE

## REGALIA LTD

## FLATSHARE

## SITUATIONS VACANT

## JETLINE

## FLIGHTSEATS

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## EX-SERVICES MENTAL

## NOTICE

## REGALIA LTD

## FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

## NOTICE

## REGALIA LTD







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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 18 1996

MPs recommend DTI be deprived of financial supervision role

## Bank attacked over Barings

BY JASON NISSE  
AND GAVIN LUMSDEN

AN ALL-PARTY committee of MPs yesterday attacked the Bank of England over its role in the collapse of Barings in February 1995 and said that, unless it changes the way it operates, banking regulation should be taken away from the Bank.

The report of the Treasury Select Committee, which took 13 months to complete but had to be published a day early because of leaks, also attacks the auditors of Barings, the Securities & Futures Authority (SFA) and questions the effectiveness of international co-operation when it comes to supervising financial markets. It also recommends that, as soon as possible, all regulation of the financial markets is taken away from the Department of Trade and Industry and given to the Treasury.

But the main attack of the report, which was only signed by three members of the committee, Barry Legge, Nigel Forman and Diane Abbott, is on the Bank. The MPs take the view that the Bank's closeness to the institutions it regulates, and because of its proximity to the day-to-day banking market, is an impediment to effective regulation.

The MPs described the Bank as a "cheerleader for the City" and in a final line, which will be of great concern to Michael Foot, the Bank's director of banking supervision, the report says that to "bring about the necessary cultural change, banking supervision will have to be taken away from the Bank of England."



Leeson: rogue trader



Michael Foot, head of supervision, a role MPs suggest may come to an end



Eddie George: cheerleader

## MPs leave questionmark over future of regulators

The Bank of England's future role: "The Bank needs to demonstrate that it is able to separate its supervisory functions from its other functions and avoid any possible weakening of its regulatory effectiveness due to its proximity to the day to day banking market. Otherwise it may be that in order to bring about the necessary cultural change banking supervision will have to be taken away from the Bank of England."

The Bank's co-ordinating role: "We are concerned that

at times there may be too many cooks, and those with front line expertise may be excluded from international discussions. Furthermore, we remain surprised that the Bank is so far from the comments of the MPs who it feels do not understand the Bank's special role in the UK financial market, a role that is unique among leading financial regulators. Officials pointed to the

Bank's statute, which defines one of its roles as making sure that the financial infrastructure of the City is in place. The Bank sees this as a role completely at odds with the idea that it could be a "cheerleader" for any particular institution.

The MPs attacked the Bank for its failure to co-ordinate the

regulation of Barings and said

there was a question of "too many cooks". It records that the Singapore investigators gained "limited assistance" from the Bank and suspects that the two regulators were working in competition rather than co-operation, adding that the evidence of Eddie

George, the Governor of the

Bank, "failed to allay our concerns in this respect".

Though the Bank does not accept this criticism, a spokesman said: "We have long recognised that there is a need for improved regulatory co-operation and, since the collapse of Barings, we have been working hard at ways of taking that forward."

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Since Nick Leeson, a rogue

dealer, caused the collapse of

22-year-old Barings, Howard

Davies, the deputy governor

of the Bank, has joined the

Securities & Investment Board,

the lead regulator for financial

markets, and Sir Andrew

Large, chairman of the SIB,

has joined the Board of Banking

Supervision. In a speech

## How they reacted to the findings of the report

The auditors, Coopers &

Lybrand: "One of the key checks, that of the auditors, upon which shareholders should be able to rely, failed over a number of years to reveal weak internal controls and resulting unauthorised behaviour."

The Treasury's role: "Ministerial responsibility for all aspects of financial regulation and supervision, including the prudent supervision of the insurance industry, should be transferred to HM Treasury at the earliest opportunity."

The Securities & Futures Authority: "The report is welcome as an acknowledgement

of the difficulties that face all financial regulators."

Tim Yeo, Conservative MP for South Suffolk and former chairman of the Treasury Select Committee: "We must ensure that the Bank of England overhauls its approach to supervision or that responsibility should be given to another body."

The Bank needs to revise its role fundamentally. While we have not set a timetable for the Bank to take action, we would like to see a positive reaction from the Governor."

Barry Legge, Conservative MP for Milton Keynes SW:

"The Bank of England didn't

give information to the Singap-

ore inspectors represented by

Price Waterhouse. This obvi-

ously caused a lot of bad

feeling. Eddie George denied

the problem existed. We weren't convinced."

The British Bankers Associa-

tion said that the failure of

Barings could be seen as a

success of the system.

"You shouldn't guarantee

that a bank can never fail."

United is situated. United also

hopes to be promoted to the

Premiership and is offering

share incentives to Howard

Kendall, its football manager,

and some of the players if they

achieve this.

The deal has been on the

cards for two months, but was

held up while a deal was

struck to buy out a 10 per cent

stake in United owned by

Stephen Hincliffe, the busi-

nessman whose collapsed Fa-

cia empire is being investi-

gated by the Serious Fraud

Office.

Mike McDonald, the Man-

chester businessman who took

control of United two years

ago, will be non-executive

chairman of the quoted com-

pany, to be renamed Sheffield

United.

Charles Green, the chief

executive of United, will take

that post in the quoted com-

pany, while Ian Townsend,

Conrad's finance director, will

keep his position.

Mike Edelson, Conrad's

chief executive, is stepping

down because of a conflict of

interest, being a main board

director of Manchester

United.

However, he will remain

involved for some time, largely

to negotiate property deals.

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many cooks, and those with

front line expertise may be

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Bank's role in the collapse of



□ Northern battle nears its end □ Fresh wrangle over pension rights □ Bank takes flak from Barings

□ MOST takeover bids work out their passage in their stylised way, with the usual choreographed moves and counter-moves en route, which are of enormous fascination to the participants and to the industry of advisers who earn multi-million pound fees but of limited interest elsewhere. We had two such yesterday, a couple of engineers bidding for smaller and less successful rivals.

Just a few, however, have resonance beyond the investment community and their respective industries. Forte versus Granada was one such, ending in a defeat for an incompetent management that had played the loyalty card to fund managers without any solid achievements to back this up. At the time there was much talk about City short-termism; the improvements Granada has achieved since suggest that support for Forte management would have meant taking a long-term view to excess.

Some similar arguments are being fielded in the CalEnergy bid for Northern Electric. It is a case of cash now, or support for a management that has done about all it humanly can to provide the maximum shareholder value as an alternative.

CalEnergy's 650p terms were initially seen as unattractive. Two new factors have intervened.

## When small investors count

since. A couple of precipitate market collapses have made 650p cash more attractive than it had once seemed. The bid, which had been expected to be blocked by Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, was waved through. Had the bid lapsed, Northern shareholders would not have seen the money anyway. But its clearance also suggests open season for those three other regional electricity companies not yet under new ownership. Expect action soon — possibly even before the Northern bid closes.

Clearance raised the value of such businesses, and so by extension that of Northern. If the CalEnergy bid fails, the theory suggests, there will be another along in due course — possibly even from the same bidder at a higher price, if agreed. This is allowed under Takeover Panel rules, and Northern has indicated a fair value in the £7 area. Meanwhile, the latter's stated dividend policy, a 99.2p payment in February, a prospective 10 per cent yield the year after and annual dividend growth of 8 per cent to the end of

### Temptation in a little pot of gold

□ GOVERNMENT ministers took the same attitude to pensions as other furtive 1980s' employers in the messier privatisations such as buses, electricity and rail. If British Aerospace or British Telecom were sold intact, pensions simply went with them. When the old state organisation was broken up, all sorts of

with striking generosity towards new employers that needed to finance the extra pension cost of associated redundancies.

By the time the centrifuge approach to privatisation reached its apogee on the railways, the form was well established. Surpluses could be used to slim franchise subsidies by allowing bidders to see that they could enjoy a contributions holiday. In a twisted way, it makes sense. The surpluses are being retained in the industry, allowing the franchise director to obtain a better deal on services or investment for the same subsidy.

As soon as fund members started challenging these deals with the pensions ombudsman, however, awkward questions arose. How should trustees share such surpluses between member and employer? And what pressures are put on trustees to do what the Government wants? In the bus case, the ombudsman ruled that pressure has been unfair, though ministers still hope the courts will let them keep the surplus. Electricity workers were hard done by too, according to the ombuds-

man. Whitehall and the trustees will surely be anxious to avoid another embarrassing rebuff from the State's own watchdog.

### Independence may not be enough

□ ACCUSING THE BANK OF ENGLAND of being too close to the City is a little like accusing it of being in Threadneedle Street — it does rather go with the territory. It is impossible to review the Barings saga without disquiet over the way the system was operated, the cosy series of nods and winks that were supposed to be enough but weren't, the chummy assumption that the sheer longevity of the country's oldest merchant bank bestowed the right to operate without supervision.

There is a clear argument to separate the Bank's twin functions of economic stewardship and financial regulation of the banking system, if not least because the first area tends to attract the brightest minds — much more fun to follow the Chancellor from summit to summit dropping pearls of eco-

nomics wisdom than trawl wearily through endless financial audits. But it is not so clear whether an independent regulator would be effective merely because it would be independent. The SEC on Wall Street is held out as a role model by some. But the SEC's success has come about not least because of the weapons available to it, including heavy civil penalties that require a lower burden of proof than criminal remedies — a relevant point the day after Ernest Saunders's victory in the European Court.

### Counter call

□ IT WILL be a cold and hungry Christmas Eve in the banking halls this year. The staff at Lloyds/TSB and NatWest have been told to work through the afternoon. The customer comes first, says Lloyds, in a hollow gesture intended to bring goodwill to the high street before overdraft rate charges begin to hurt. But the paupers — sorry, staff — at Lloyds are revolting. Our families come first, they say, leaving NatWest alone to man the counters. But telephone banking goes on heedless of the season of goodwill, a thought that should bring a non-festive shiver to all banking staff — and the prospect of an unmetry new year for a few thousand of them.

## FKI's bid for Tonks is rejected

BY OLIVER AUGUST

FKI, the engineering group, yesterday launched a hostile bid for Newman Tonks after winning the support of the largest shareholders of the building materials group.

The cash-and-shares offer values Newman Tonks at £195.7 million. Alternatively, shareholders could take £182.6 million in cash.

FKI had been contemplating a bid for three years, and decided to go ahead only after gaining firm undertakings from M&G and Britannic Assurance, which hold a total of 13.4 per cent of Newman Tonks's equity.

M&G, which is Newman Tonks's largest shareholder, with more than 11 per cent, is irrevocably committed to accepting the offer after years of support for the Newman Tonks board.

M&G's move was regarded as highly significant in the City. Nigel Harrison, of Williams de Broe, the stockbroker, said that M&G's change of mind bodes well for FKI.

Newman Tonks shares rose from 129p to 149p p, just shy of FKI's 150p-per-share offer.

Jeff Whalley, FKI chairman, said: "Newman Tonks represents an excellent opportunity to expand our hardware business internationally and in new sectors of the market. We have proven our

ability to enhance the performance of our core businesses in recent years, and I am confident that Newman Tonks's results can be significantly improved under our management."

Mr Whalley said that Newman Tonks's operating margins, earnings per share and dividends had all fallen by at least 11 per cent since 1992.

If the bid succeeds, the enlarged FKI group would have a stronger focus on hardware supplies and double its present hardware turnover. Whereas Newman Tonks operates primarily in Europe, 89 per cent of FKI's hardware business is in America.

Newman Tonks responded to the bid by branding it "opportunist", and saying that it undervalued its businesses.

The company advised shareholders to reject the offer and take no immediate action.

The money payable under the cash alternative will be funded from existing cash resources and through a fully underwritten conditional rights issue of up to two new FKI shares for every 13 existing FKI shares at 175p per share.

FKI shares closed at 196.5p, down from 200p.

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### Nursing homes 'in decline'

BY ERIC REGULY

GOLDSBOROUGH Healthcare predicted yesterday that profit margins in its nursing homes division would continue to come under pressure because of flat or declining occupancy rates.

Graham Smith, chief executive, said funding uncertainties from local authorities had reduced nursing home occupancy rates from 92.5 per cent last year to 90 per cent now.

The nursing homes division, which includes care homes, reported a 6 per cent decline in operating profits, to £4.5 million, in the year to September 30. The downturn was more than offset by better performances from the hospital and home care business. Pre-tax profits rose 11 per cent to £5.9 million on turnover of £68.7 million, up 34 per cent.

The final dividend, to be paid on February 28, rises 10 per cent to 2.97p, making the total dividend 4.29p.

### Securicor squeezed by competition

BY ERIC REGULY

INCREASED competition and weakness in parts of Europe put pressure on the core operations of Securicor, the security and communications group.

Operating profits in its security division, which accounts for almost one third of turnover, declined from £15 million to £12 million in the year to September 30. The company said its British operations suffered from competitors which had reduced prices to "unsustainable levels" and problems in its French operations.

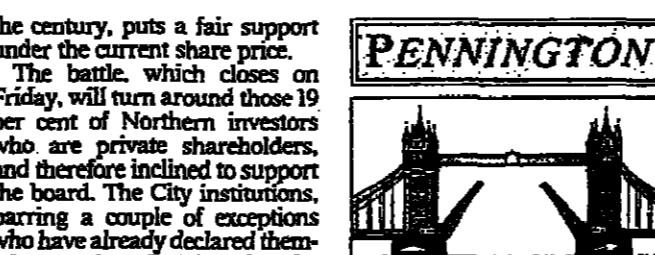
Securicor Cellular Services, its communications business, also suffered a downturn, with a loss of £4.5 million (£2.6 million profit). Securicor blamed the downturn on a shift in the mobile-phone customer base to consumer subscribers, who are more prone to bad debts than business customers.

The other businesses fared better. Parcels distribution, which includes Omega Express and Pony Express, was the star performer with a 57 per cent rise in profit to £21 million. Cellnet, the mobile-phone company which is 40 per cent owned by Securicor and 60 per cent owned by British Telecom, generated £76 million in profit (£70 million).

Group pre-tax profits were up 8.1 per cent to £107.4 million. Earnings per share were 11.6p against 10.7p last time, and the final dividend of 1.2p, due on April 4, makes a 1.56p total, up 17 per cent.

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## STOCK MARKET



MICHAEL CLARK

# Insurance sector heats up as merger rumours grow

THE market remains convinced that it can only be a matter of time before a major deal is announced in the insurance sector.

Once again the speculative attention was focused on Commercial Union as the price raced up 13p to a new peak of 693p as persistent talk of the long-awaited bid from Allianz, the German insurance group, resurfaced.

It seems that a plan by BAT Industries to merge its financial services arm, that includes Allied, Hambro, Eagle Star, and Farmers, with CU was abandoned a few weeks ago.

But BAT continues to look at ways of expanding. Now the speculators claim it may be looking at General Accident, up 2p to 716½, which is reckoned to be the safest bet after CU. At these levels GA is capitalised at £3.3 billion.

The insurance brokers are also undergoing a period of consolidation. In recent weeks Aon has merged with A&A and earlier this week Lloyd Thompson, 1½p firmer at 175½p, decided to tie the knot with JIB Group, 2p better at 132p. Further deals are expected. Willis Corroon, up 5p at 140½p, Sedgwick, 1½p dearer at 133½p, are both seen as possible bid candidates.

The overnight setback for shares on Wall Street provided a dull backdrop to trading in London, with prices marked lower at the outset. The losses were accelerated after lunch by a stronger than expected jump in new US housing starts. It prompted an initial mark-down of US Treasury bonds while the Dow Jones industrial average also moved lower. But New York later clawed back a 31-point deficit enabling the London market to close above its worst levels. The FT-SE 100 index reduced a 23-point deficit to close 14.2 down at 3,799.6 as a total of 888 million shares were traded.

British Gas fell 6p to 223½p after ABN Amro Hoare Govett, one of its joint brokers, reduced its break-up value for the company from 240p to 220p. It also reduced its recommendation from a "buy" to a "hold".

Hoare Govett was also responsible for a 6p fall in ICI at 767p after a profits downgrading. It has reduced its estimate for the current year by £25 million to 6675 million and for 1995 by £35 million to £790 million.



Kunick was former on higher profits for John Jones, finance director, left, Russell Smith, centre, and Clive Clague

that full-year pre-tax profits will be hit by a £5 million restructuring charge. It also warned that operating profits before costs will be similar to the second half of last year. The group was optimistic about prospects and the price responded with a rise of 5p at 127p.

Severn Trent Water put on 13½p at 667½p after the group waded into the market and bought back almost 5 per cent of its own shares. The group announced plans to buy back up to 10 per cent of its shares along with the interim figures last month.

Kunick, the leisure group under Clive Clague, chairman, and Russell Smith, chief executive, firms 2½p to 23½p with the help of a 10 per cent increase in pre-tax profits at £9.1 million. It has also concluded a joint agreement with Gauselmann in order to buy Bell-Fruit Manufacturing for £8 million.

Increased losses left Aromascan 4½p lower at 95p, while Eurotherm failed to benefit from full-year profits bang in line with City expectations as the price fell 20p to 540p. The City gave a lukewarm response to full-year figures from Vaux showing pre-tax profits up £3 million at £34.8 million. The shares settled 5p lower at 252½p.

Shares of Sherwood Group tumbled 17p to 41½p after issuing its second profits warning in six months. Sales of both lace and garments were depressed and pre-tax

Burnfield at 135p a share. Brian McGowan, chairman of Burnfield, said Fairley was offering a knock-down price for the group and its potential. Fairley slipped 1½p to 582p.

Shares of Sherwood Group tumbled 17p to 41½p after issuing its second profits warning in six months. Sales of both lace and garments were depressed and pre-tax

Compass Group fell 8p to 612p after Accor, of France, sold a total of 6 million shares at 601.6p each, a sharp discount. It reduces Accor's stake to 21.5 per cent. Despite the sale, Paribas Capital Markets, the broker, remains a buyer of Compass and forecasts a 675p target price during the next six to nine months.

its prospects. M&G and Britannia, Newman Tonks's two biggest shareholders, account for 13.4 per cent of the shares and have agreed to accept the terms from FKI.

Elsewhere in the engineering sector, Burfield surged 30p to 136p after rejecting terms of a £51 million offer from FKI, the fast-growing engineering group. Newman said the bid undervalued

profits in the second half will be "appreciably less" than the £3.75 million achieved in the first six months. The group is maintaining the 3.6p dividend. The fallout hit Courtards Textiles, another producer of lace, which ended 10p down at 221p.

Another profits warning in the textiles sector came from Coats Vyella. The group says

in futures of the March series of the long gilt fell £8 to £108½ as the number of contracts completed slumped to just 20,000.

In the cash market Treasury 12 per cent 2015 lost £17½ at £101½, while Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £1 off at £101½.

**GILT-LEDGED:** The stronger than expected jump in US housing starts unsettled bond markets on both sides of the Atlantic. Brokers said that in such thin conditions bearish news was always likely to create a certain amount of volatility.

In futures of the March series of the long gilt fell £8 to £108½ as the number of contracts completed slumped to just 20,000.

**NEW YORK:** On Wall Street concern about the future of the economy and interest rates prevailed and bonds dragged shares lower. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 4.23 points at 6,264.12.

## MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):

Dow Jones 1,024.12 (-4.23)

S&P Composite 721.70 (-0.29)

Tokyo:

Nikkei Average 2,043.46 (-6.58)

Hong Kong:

Hang Seng 1,281.57 (-12.11)

Amsterdam:

EOE Index 61,294 (-3.18)

Sydney:

2315.8 (-20.5)

Frankfurt:

DAX 2,015.15 (-40.08)

Singapore:

Straits 2,176.52 (-6.74)

Brussels:

General 1,028.40 (+23.48)

Paris:

CAC-40 2,193.70 (-38.87)

Zurich:

SWX Gen 826.10 (-3.70)

London:

FT 30 2,704.0 (-11.2)

FT 100 3,079.2 (-14.2)

FTSE Mid 250 4,364.0 (-7.2)

FTSE 350 5,000.0 (-10.0)

FTSE Contract 100 1,847.55 (-5.94)

FT All Share 1,945.45 (-5.75)

FT Non Financials 2,028.14 (-7.16)

FT Fixed Interest 1,16.27 (-0.03)

FT Govt Securities 94.06 (-0.02)

SEAO Volume 888.99

US (Datastream) 1,185.93 (+1.19)

USS 1,471.78 (+0.0103)

German Mark 2,584.1 (+0.0433)

Exchange Index 94.0 (+0.0433)

Bank of England official close 1,330.4

Euro 1,194.7 (-1.54)

ESDR 1,534.9 (-1.54)

RPI 1,513.9 (-2.76) Jan 1987-100

RPI — 1,517.7 Nov (3.3%) Jan 1987-100

Source: Datastream

## RECENT ISSUES

Advanced Power Cm 80½ + 1

Archer-Daniels 100 -

Castrol 237½ - 1

Car Group 182½ + 8

Colt Telecom (275) 277½ - 2

Dawn Til Disk 121½ -

Exter Inv 97½ -

Finsbury Int'l Hedge 616½ + 3

Future Int'l 115½ 125 -

Grancaster Hedge 129½ + 2

Henderson Tech C 322½ - 1

Henderson Tech Wrt 37½ - 1

Hornbeam Tech 98 -

Highams Sys Svs 121½ + 34

Kern River 50½ -

Kier Group 185 -

Oliver Ashworth 135½ -

Oxford Biomedica 55½ + 5

Parkwood Holdings 80 -

Plat Techn 54½ - 10

Provend (125) 131½ + 5

SDX Business Sys 170½ -

Sonc Highland Hts 137½ -

Second St David Inc 110½ -

Second St David Res 9½ -

Second St David 2 Pf 184½ -

Semple Cochrane 230 + 14

Yeoman Group 157½ -

Source: Datastream

## RIGHTS ISSUES

Allied Colloids n/p 2½ - 1½

Auker Assoc n/p (5) 1½ -

Azlan n/p (620) 1½ -

Biocompatibles n/p 24½ - 2½

Bodycare Ind n/p 144½ -

Source: Datastream

## MAJOR CHANGES

Rises:

Prism Rail 465p (+20p)

Flexitech 648p (+21p)

Selected App 340p (+10p)

Airtours 752p (+19p)

Com Unr 693p (+13p)

Church 497p (+10p)

Falls:

Contouraid Ted 221p (-1p)

Domino 274p (-1p)

Eurotherm 540p (+20p)

Border TV 313p (-9p)

Stagecoach 705p (-18p)

BAT 468p (-10p)

Source: Datastream

## COTTON STERLING

Rises:

Prism Rail 1,670p (-1,073)

Australia dollar 1,095.62 (-1,057)

Canada dollar 1,304.98 (-5,015)

Denmark 5,015.20 (-5,015)

France 5,219.15 (-2,201)

Germany 5,200.00 (-1,000)

Hong Kong 7,767.27 (-7,777)

Ireland 1,664.5 (-1,665)

Italy 1,524.91 (-522.4)

Japan 1,524.91 (-522.4)

Malaysia 2,542.02 (-2,535)

Netherlands 1,734.44 (-1,332)

Norway 1,455.00 (-4,354)

Portugal 1,455.00 (-4,354)

Spain 1,399.5 (-1,400)

THE  
TIMES  
  
CITY  
DIARY

Going Places  
with Cilla

A MARRIAGE made on holiday. Going Places has signed a seven-figure deal to sponsor LWT's *Blind Date* show. Credits will appear before, during, and after the popular match-making programme. Due to strict guidelines, however, the travel company has been barred from playing cupid and sending couples on their blind date.

To celebrate tomorrow's launch, Going Places is sending the only two couples to have married as a result of the show on a second honeymoon. Cilla Black will not be there — the presenter of the show is on her hols.

**Called to the bar**  
TRUE to my word, legal firms Cameron, Markby, Hewitt and McKenna & Co have tied the knot. Once meetings to take a vote had finished at both firms on Monday night, separate celebrations began. In the middle of the excitement, however, someone at Camerons (whose party had started rather earlier than its other half's) suggested that if the two firms were merging, then so should the parties. At once, tables were filled with dewy-eyed partners from Camerons, heading off to initiate themselves with their new relations at "Cameron McKenna".



Rimmer: is that you?

**Saying cheese**  
FULL MARKS all round to Legal & General for the most boring, most cheesy, most embarrassing Christmas card. Graham Rimmer, the insurance company's photogenic press officer, has taken time out of his busy schedule to pose for the picture. If this is what it's like during the festive season, imagine the office during the rest of the year. Oh yes, and isn't that a Hermes tie Mr Rimmer is wearing?

**On the case**  
POSTIES are not the only people working their fingers to the bone before Christmas. Eleven case officers in the OFT's mergers secretariat have dealt with 487 cases already this year, including the proposed British Airways-American Airlines alliance and the planned Bass-Carlsberg-Tetley takeover. Since the beginning of last week, 26 cases have been completed and a 40-page consultation document on the BA-AA merger has been published. Working on an average of 10 cases each at any one time, sometimes to a deadline of 35 days, staff will be letting rip at this week's Christmas party.

Travel pack

WHERE has Le Méridien Piccadilly been since the awakening of equality? The hotel has introduced a new "Female Executive Traveller" package promising low-calorie menus and glossy magazines for lonely females to read in its restaurants. Business women will be escorted to their hotel room, located close to the lift, where there will be a welcome letter waiting with basic safety tips and essential information on beauty treatments. An all-important magnifying mirror will be hanging in the bathroom.

MORAG PRESTON

# As promised — Tories labour their point on employment

Philip Bassett  
goes in search of  
the truth behind  
claims in the  
John Major advert  
on employment

John Major's bespectacled eyes stare hugely out from the billboards plastered around Britain's streets. "As promised," the advertisement says, "more jobs". As the Government today unveils its latest job figures, the Prime Minister's campaign allies the Conservatives' job record with its tax-cutting claims as one of the key issues on the pre-election agenda. Are the Conservatives right?

Ministers hope today's latest labour market figures will show a further fall in unemployment though there were no clear signs in Westminster yesterday about whether the fall will take claimant unemployment below the significant two million mark.

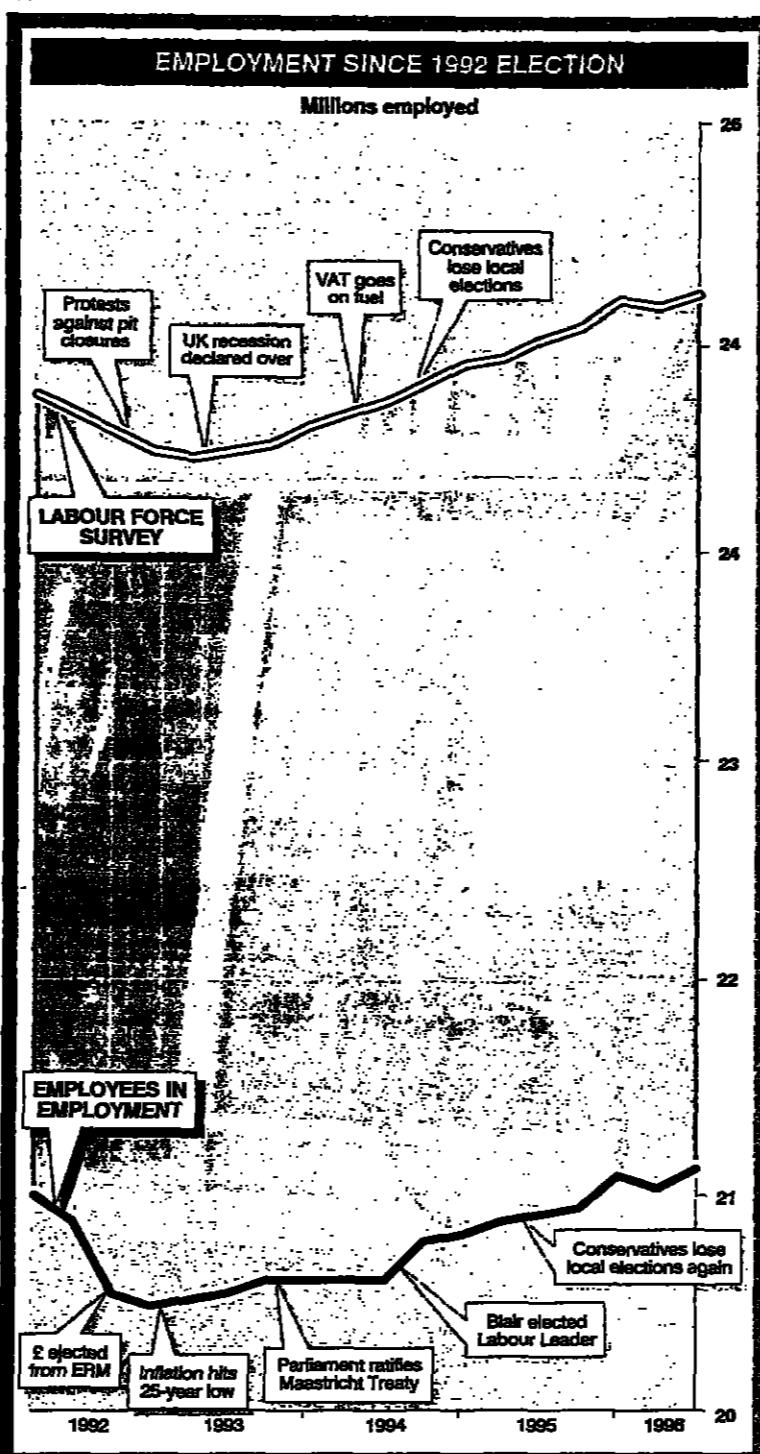
While ministers are hopeful that the figures today or next month will show that, officials yesterday were pointing out that last month's 40,800 fall was associated with a number of special factors. They might "bounce back" on today's figure, which needs to drop by at least a seasonally adjusted 30,100 to fall below the two million threshold — something it has done only twice in the past two years.

A few months before a general election, unemployment is clearly a key electoral concern for voters, with more than 10.3 million people having had one or more spells of being out of work since the 1992 vote. But however significant unemployment is, it is the number of jobs that will be vital in ushering back the elusive "feel-good" factor, seen as central to the election. By focusing in the current "As promised" advertising campaign on only tax cuts and jobs, that is the Conservatives' clear pre-election judgment.

But for the Government, the jobs story since the last election is made more difficult by the disparity between its two principal measures of employment, as produced by the Office for National Statistics — the employer-based Workforce in Employment series (WmE), focusing mainly on employees in employment (EmE), and the household-based Labour Force Survey series. Whitehall's statisticians have just been revising the figures, again, that the gap between the two has been reduced, this time by 98,000, so that it now stands at 454,000 — still more of a yawning chasm than a gap, and one that is proving difficult and perhaps impossible to bridge.

Take overall employment change since the last election. The employer-based EmE series measures the change as an increase of 129,000, or just 0.6 per cent — barely enough to justify the "As promised" campaign. The LFS sees it differently — a 467,000 increase in jobs, or just under 2 per cent.

Because its methodology makes it internationally comparable — and because it is less subject to the switchbacks of political decision-making — statisticians tend to like the "real" numbers of the unemployment claimant count, or the EmE, which is partly why they have rejected a move to a



monthly LFS, instead of the current quarterly arrangement; but the markedly better figures of the LFS on jobs are tempting them sorely.

In any case, the WmE and EmE series are still economically more important — in particular, because they, and not the LFS, are used as components in other key economic indicators, including the GDP figures, and in Budget arithmetic.

Looking at the EmE series, then, and comparing March 1992 — a month before that year's election — with the latest available figures, for June 1996, the overall job growth of 129,000 masks important other developments.

For instance, the overall improvement disguises sharply differing experiences for men, and for women. Since the last election, the total number of jobs for men has gone down, by 84,000, or 0.8 per cent. The number of jobs held by women has risen, by 213,000, or 2 per cent. Given both the dominance of women in part-time work, and the increasing attractiveness to employers of more flexible work patterns, the period has also seen very different

developments in patterns of employment. Part-time jobs are up since the election, by 7.7 per cent, or 43,900. Full-time employment is down, by 283,000, or 1.8 per cent.

Within these national figures, the employment pattern has diverged, too. The South West, for instance, has seen the highest job growth, at 4.5 per cent, or 76,000 new jobs — though this region has traditionally been a low-employment, low-pay area.

**Y**et the industrial heartland of the West Midlands has seen a 2.9 per cent increase in jobs, up 59,000 since the election, followed by the East Midlands at 1.9 per cent, or 30,000, and then Yorkshire and Humberside, at 1.8 per cent, or 34,000 jobs. By contrast, some areas have seen a fall. Scotland has lost 100,000 jobs since the election — down 5 per cent. The North has seen 3.25 per cent of its jobs go, or 36,000, while 0.6 per cent, or 15,000, have gone in net terms over the period.

These differential experiences of job growth, and some continuing job decline, are reflected in the patterns in

different industrial sectors. Despite recent increases, jobs in manufacturing, which were hammered in the recessions of the early 1980s and the early 1990s, have continued to be hit since the election, with the total number of manufacturing jobs now 2.5 per cent down since then — a fall of 101,000. Service sector jobs — often seen as less secure, less well-paid and less long-lasting — are up, in contrast, by 3.3 per cent, or 526,000.

Within these broad groupings, some individual areas have been harder hit, while some have prospered. Unsurprisingly, given the extent of the pit closure programme from 1992 onwards, mining and energy has seen the biggest fall in jobs — down a huge 44.5 per cent or 153,000 since the election.

Sectorally, nothing else comes close, though almost 16 per cent of jobs in construction, or 150,000, have gone over that period: 11.3, or 7 per cent of jobs in agriculture, or 33,000; and 9 per cent of jobs in transport, or 96,000.

**N**o sectors have seen comparable rates of growth. The official category of real estate, renting and general business service activities has seen the biggest increase — up 18.7 per cent, or an increase of a hefty 441,000 jobs. Employment in hotels and restaurants is up 5 per cent, or 94,000, and in health — probably mainly administrative jobs — by 4.5 per cent, or 106,000.

Even using the LFS figures, which show overall much higher job growth, similar differences emerge, though when set against the EmE series, the pattern can be confusing. Not only does the LFS show much higher jobs growth since the 1992 election, at 467,000, but the composition of that growth is different.

Whereas the EmE figures show men's employment falling while women's has risen, the LFS shows a rise for both — 150,000, or 1 per cent, for men, and 317,000, or 2.8 per cent, for women. The trends on part and full-time working are at least in the same direction in the two series, though the LFS figures show a startling increase — albeit from a relatively low base of 978,000 — in part-time work for men, which is up 300,000, or more than 30 per cent.

White-collar employment has grown more sharply than manual work, the LFS shows — up 678,000, roughly divided evenly between men and women, compared with a growth of just 96,000 in blue-collar jobs since the election. Jobs showing increases include managers and professional workers, together with sales and personal service employment — hairdressers, security guards and so on.

Clerical and especially skilled craft work have seen falls — down respectively by 58,000, or 1.5 per cent, and 282,000, or 8 per cent. By industry, the pattern is broadly similar.

Even given the statistical disparities so far unexplained by ministers and Whitehall, what all these figures tend to confirm is an employment pattern now fixed in electors' minds: fewer jobs in the "older" areas of employment, among men, in manufacturing, in peripheral regions, and in full-time work and, at the same time, a rise in jobs for women, in the service sector, in low-paying regions, in part-time employment.

The fact that after a long period of falling unemployment there have been rises at all in jobs is enough, just, to give at least a sliver of substance to the Government's poster claims. Whether that will be enough for the electorate remains to be seen.

**Morag Preston on corporate Christmas gifts with a twist**

## Preserving a presence with a present

**C**ouriers across the capital are being kept busy delivering Christmas presents from one company to another. The giving of corporate gifts is back with a vengeance, bearing the company logo, which usually go straight in the bin, and boxes of boxes have fallen out of favour. This year the City is dabbling in corporate gifts with quirky angles.

"For the first time in three years, I haven't had it said to me that times are hard," says Francesca Humphreys, managing director of The Empire Group, a corporate gifts company whose clients include SBC Warburg, Ogilvy & Mather and Sony Music.

Business is booming for the pukka present service specialising in luxury British products from retailers such as Theo Fennell, the jeweller, and Justrini & Brooks, the wine merchant. "We are constantly on the lookout for unusual gift ideas that go a long way beyond silver-plated letter-openers and carriage clocks," she says, adding that this year's most popular present from employers to staff is a £20 silver-plated candle snuffer.

Harrods corporate gifts service is boasting record figures this year, with hamper sales up 60 per cent and those of gift vouchers 30 per cent. Travel agencies and airlines are among the Knightsbridge store's most regular subscribers to its gifts service. From cuddly toys to gift vouchers, the most important feature is the Harrods logo. "Fifty per



Harrods corporate gifts service has seen hamper sales improve 60 per cent this year

cent of the pleasure is in the packaging," says Humphreys. Her clients, especially American and Japanese companies, want to send "typically British" gifts. It is the Americans and Japanese who have forced the British into corporate gift giving, she says.

Marketing directors tend to organise what gifts go to staff and contacts. Medium-sized companies that sign up with Empire usually spend between £30 and £50 per gift. But even if they spend less, it is the name of the shop it came from that is all important — Mosimann's Christmas puddings in pretty boxes, for example, at £7 each. A cuddly

moose in a customised airtight can from Chester Boyd, the caterer company, is one of the more unusual gifts to have turned up at *The Times*. Meanwhile, the healthcare division of Legal & General has sent out aromatherapy stress kits to help recipients through the festive season. Moneyfacts, the UK's leading provider of mortgage and savings data, seized on the idea of a Christmas cracker containing a mini teddy bear.

The best corporate Christmas gifts are those forever linked with the company that sends them. This year, the team at Kleinwort Benson's Investment Trust sent out

1,200 natty "mug mats" to private clients and stockbrokers, with a photographic montage of their smiling faces on one side and a Father Christmas cartoon on the other. For the past ten years, Roger Hulett, director of Investment Trust Sales at Kleinwort, has been dreaming up inventive gift ideas to charm his contacts and wind up the opposition.

Brian Winterflood, managing director of Winterflood Securities, who is renowned for his Christmas gift giving, this year came up with a customised "mouse mat", while the equity sales team at Société Générale sent out jug

giving balls. So did Mercury Asset Management.

Every year, Guinness sends out a bottle of whisky or gin to key contacts, including brokers, analysts and fund managers. This year, it was a 12-year-old bottle of Johnnie Walker Black Label. Meanwhile, staff at Guinness are allowed to choose from a selection of alcoholic beverages. The brewer also sends out about 17,000 bottles of Johnnie Walker every Christmas to former employees.

Asda sent out huge food parcels with samples of its seasonal products, including cold turkey sauce, a first-footing kit, banana toffee Christmas pudding, and a tin of its Christmas dinner for dogs. However, its staff are not allowed to receive gifts.

Tesco will occasionally give a gift to a supplier, whereas Sainsbury and Safeway do not give or receive any gifts. Marks & Spencer leaves it to its various departments to choose what they send to whom, but usually it is a box of the store's finest chocolates.

Sending the wrong present is, of course, worse than sending nothing at all, according to Humphreys. Go for something classically neutral, she says, then perhaps have it engraved. Clothes and jewellery have never been popular corporate Christmas gifts in the UK.

Meanwhile, it is never a good idea to give sharp objects, such as letter-openers, to clients from the Middle East, while the Japanese tend not to like fountain pens or cufflinks.

## The curse of the Fairy Godmother



ANTHONY HARRIS

John Major seems likely to enjoy his Christmas break more than he can have dared to hope only a few weeks ago. He has survived a crucial vote. Shoppers are behaving as if they feel good. And now his policies enjoy the OECD seal of approval: Britain can, it seems, go on performing like a Euro-tiger, outgrowing most other developed

countries.

Little (apart from the IRA)

seems likely to disturb his festivities. The markets have settled into the slumber that follows a good meal; and even if they get a twinge of indigestion and provoke a fall in equities or sterling, the correction would actually be quite welcome. Could it all come right?

You will hardly expect an endorsement in this column; and if you step back a little, the prospect changes into an old seasonal puzzle: what is wrong with this picture? In other words, can open economy really outgrow its main markets for long? Can a recovery that started with the enforced devaluation of 1992 survive the reversal of that advantage? And if things go wrong, what is the right response? Raise interest rates to check inflation and push the pound right back to where we came in? Or cut them in step with the rest of the world and return to stop-go?

If you are a Conservative Minister, perhaps the best way to get to sleep peacefully is to count the dilemmas which will face the next government. Bad management or just bad luck? The Chancellor did ask for trouble when he made no response at all to the huge handouts which building society savers are enjoying. That could lead to indigestion. But even if he had taken steps to smooth the growth of home demand, he would have been left with a harder problem: what can be done to support sterling?

Mrs Thatcher faced this poser — or rather, failed to face it — in her first years. The high pound knocked the economy flat and corrected only when the oil price fell. No such rescue is in sight this time. If the exchange rate does not ease very soon, you can forget the OECD's cheer-

## NOTICE OF VARIATION OF INTEREST RATES

With effect from 1 January 1997

Mortgage Rate will increase to  
7.25% per annum for

both existing and new borrowers.

The 100% Mortgage Rate  
will also increase to 7.75%  
per annum, along with the Royal  
Premier Mortgage Rate to 6.50%,  
with effect from this date.

Existing arrangements  
apply for Centralised Mortgage  
Services customers.



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Registered in Scotland No. 90312.



ing a bid

Law Report December 18 1996 Court of Appeal

## Circumstances vital to level of care required of rugby referee

**Smoldon v Whitworth and Another**  
Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice; Lord Justice Mummery and Sir Brian Neill [Judgment December 17]

The level of care required of the referee of an under-19 colts rugby football match towards a player was that appropriate in all the circumstances, taking full account of the factual context in which he was exercising his functions as a referee.

That context included his responsibility to protect players' safety and to apply the rules of the game in force at the time in particular, those designed to minimise the acknowledged risk of serious spinal injury resulting from scrum collapse.

Where, therefore, a referee failed to take appropriate steps under the rules to prevent scrum collapse so that the plaintiff suffered serious spinal injury the referee was liable for that foreseeable consequence of his breach of duty.

The Court of Appeal held, dismissing an appeal by the second defendant, Michael Nolan, from Mr Justice Curtis (*The Times* April 23, 1996) who had made a finding of liability against him in respect of his refereeing of an under-19 colts match on October 19, 1991, in which the plaintiff, Benjamin Smoldon, then aged 17½ and the captain and hooker of the Sutton Coldfield Colts, was seriously injured when his neck was broken in a collapsing scrum during a match against the Burton Colts.

The plaintiff did not appeal against the judge's dismissal of his

claim against the first defendant, Thomas Whitworth, a fellow player.

Mr Richard Davies, QC and Mr Neil Black for the referee; Mr Peter Andrews, QC and Mr Philip Lehain for the plaintiff.

**THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE**, giving the judgment of the court, said that although earlier cases had explored the duty owed by one sporting participant to another (see *Rootes v Bass* ([1968] ALR 33); *Condon v Bass* ([1985] 1 WLR 866) and *Elliott v Saunders* (unreported, QB, June 10, 1994)) and that owed by a sporting participant to a spectator (the *Woodbridge and Wilks* case), there appeared to be no previous case in which a rugby football player had sued a referee in negligence.

The present case was of obvious importance to the plaintiff whose capacity for active and independent life had been blighted, but it was also of concern to many who feared that the judgment for the plaintiff would emasculate and enmesh in unwelcome legal tangles a game which gave pleasure to millions.

His Lordship referred to the context in which the issues arose: 1 That rugby football was a tough, highly physical game, not for the timid or the fragile, in which participants in serious competitive games could expect a fair share of knocks, bruises, strains, abrasions and minor body injuries.

2 The laws of the game in force during the 1991/1992 season issued

by the International Rugby Football Board and their accompanying instructions and notes for the guidance of players and referees, which contained special provisions for under-19s.

His Lordship set out the relevant laws applicable, in particular, to under-19s and relating to protection during scrummages and enforcement of safety measures, which were in place for the 1991/1992 season, specifically to protect young players against the risk of spinal injury caused by collapsed scrums.

He also referred to a further directive issued in March 1991 expressing concern at the continued lack of observance of the phased sequence of engagement within law 202 and requiring the same observance of the engagement sequence, 'bounce-touch-pause-engage' (CTPE).

3 The referee's function to supervise the playing of the match, endeavouring to apply the rules of the game fairly and judiciously so as to ensure that the flow of play was not unnecessarily interrupted, that points awarded were fairly scored and that foul or dangerous play was discouraged and, where appropriate, penalised or prevented.

His Lordship said that that function had often to be performed in the context of a fast-moving, competitive and vigorous game, calling for split-second judgments and decisions.

The referee could not be in all parts of the field at the same time; he could not hope to see everything that went on; it was a difficult and demanding job, usually, as here,

performed out of goodwill by a devotee of the game.

On the question of the duty of care owed to the plaintiff, the referee, founding his pleaded defence on observations of Lord Justice Sellers and Lord Justice Diplock in *Woodbridge v Summer* ([1963] 2 QB 43, 57, 67 and 68), had argued that while he owed a duty of care and skill nothing short of reckless disregard of the plaintiff's safety would suffice to establish a breach of that duty.

The judge had adopted the test proposed by the plaintiff in reliance on observations of Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, in *Condon v Bass* (at p 868) that the duty owed was to exercise such degree of care as was appropriate in all the circumstances.

In the judgment of the court the judge was correct. The referee accepted that he owed a duty so that there was no issue whether any duty of care arose at all or whether any such duty was owed to the plaintiff.

The court did not accept that fear as well founded. The level of care required was that which was appropriate in all the circumstances and the circumstances were of crucial importance.

Full account had to be taken of the factual context in which he exercised his functions and he

could not be properly held liable for errors of judgment, oversight or lapses of which any referee might be guilty in the context of a fast-moving and vigorous contest.

The threshold of liability was a high one. It would not easily be crossed.

There was no inconsistency between that conclusion and that reached by the Court of Appeal in the *Woodbridge and Wilks* case. The position of a referee vis-à-vis the players was not the same as that of a participant in a contest viewed as a spectator.

One of his responsibilities was to safeguard the players' safety. So although the legal duty was the same, the practical content differed according to the quite different circumstances.

The referee had submitted that the impact the plaintiff had not been caused by him directly, but as the result of acts and omissions on the part of third parties, the other members of the scrum, and that he could not be held liable unless the likely cause of a large majority of scrums collapsing and in those cases causing serious injury was the impact of collapsed scrums.

The court found that there was a high level of probability of injury of the kind which the laws were designed to prevent as a result of a scrum collapse.

The court rejected that submission. There could be no doubt that the scrummaging rules were designed to minimise the risk of spiral injuries caused in collapsing scrums, that being a risk of which those managing or coaching rugby teams or refereeing or playing in matches was well aware.

It was accepted that the referee had gained most help from the expert called by the referee who, as the judge accepted, had

injury was a foreseeable consequence of a scrum collapse and of failure to prevent such collapse.

If the referee were properly found to be in breach of his duty of care by failing to take appropriate steps to prevent a collapse and if as a result of his failure a scrum did collapse and a player thereby suffered spinal injuries of a kind the rules were designed to prevent, then the referee would be liable in law for that foreseeable result of his breach of duty, despite the fact that, quantified statistically, it was a result which was very unlikely to eventuate.

His Lordship, referring to the judge's findings, said that the judge had been satisfied by the evidence that the scrums were repeatedly coming together in a rushed way and with excessive force; that those impacts were the likely cause of a large majority of scrums collapsing and in the light of his own expert's evidence, fallen below the standard of refereeing set by the referee.

His Lordship referred to the judge's findings, said that the judge had been satisfied by the evidence that the scrums were repeatedly coming together in a rushed way and with excessive force; that those impacts were the likely cause of a large majority of scrums collapsing and in the light of his own expert's evidence, fallen below the standard of refereeing set by the referee.

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explained the difficulty for a referee of spotting who was collapsing the scrum, but that recent law changes in 1991 had given referees of colts matches the power they needed to stop scrums collapsing and that the referee in such games was under an active duty to do so.

In the expert's opinion the referee's responsibility was to ensure the players did not injure themselves or others, having what he had called a 'preventive manner'; that if the CTPE sequence was properly applied with evenly matched scrums, as in the present case, he would not expect as many as five to collapse in scrums, and that if there were 25 the world standard of refereeing was below an acceptable standard.

His Lordship, referring to the judge's findings, said that the judge had been satisfied by the evidence that the scrums were properly applied to the extent that they did not collapse and that the referee had not enforced the CTPE sequence but that he had given consent to the extent that he had not intended to open the door to a plethora of claims by players against referees and it would be deplorable if that were the result.

In the court's view, that result should not follow provided all concerned appreciated how difficult it was for any plaintiff to establish that a referee failed to exercise such care and skill as was reasonably to be expected in the circumstances of a hasty contested game of rugby football.

The court was caused to wonder whether it would not be beneficial if all players were, as a matter of general practice, to be insured not against negligence but against the risk of catastrophic injury.

That was no doubt a matter for which those responsible for the administration of rugby football had given anxious attention.

The appeal would be dismissed.

Solicitors: Davies Arnold Cooper; Eviil & Coleman, Putney.

## Resolving dispute on creditor's petition

**Alipour v UOC Corporation**  
Before Lord Justice McCowan, Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Lord Justice Hutchinson [Judgment December 17]

The Companies Court should not normally refuse to determine a dispute on a creditor's winding-up petition even where it related to the petitioner's locus standi, if the existence of the petition was not likely to cause substantial damage to the company.

The Court of Appeal so held when allowing an appeal by the petitioner, Re *Golam Reza Alipour* from Mr Justice Knox on May 21, 1996 who had dismissed a petition to wind up UOC Corporation, an international business company, under section 124 of the Insolvency Act 1986.

The petition was a contributory's petition and the respondents, Ferehsieh Ary and Alexander Schweinthal, shareholders in UOC Corporation, disputed the petitioner's locus standi. Mr Justice Knox held that the dispute as to locus standi should be determined outside the petition and not before the petition was presented.

Mr Victor Joffe for the petitioner; Mr Roger Kaye, QC, for the respondents.

**LORD JUSTICE PETER GIBSON** said that Mr Justice Knox had referred to *In re JN2 Ltd* ([1978] 1 WLR 183) which held that where there was a contributory's petition but the petitioner's status as a contributory was in dispute that dispute should be determined first before the petition was presented.

His Lordship said that it had long been the practice of the Companies Court when faced with a creditor's petition based on a disputed debt to dismiss it, insist-

ing that the dispute be determined outside the petition.

The reason was a pragmatic one. The Companies Court being ill equipped to deal with the resolution of disputes of fact.

There might be evidence of damage or inconvenience caused to the company through the continued existence of the petition and the circumstances might indicate that the appropriate course was to require the dispute to be determined outside the petition.

In light of the authorities as reflected by the current procedures of the Companies Court, the current position was: (a) a creditor's petition based on a disputed debt would normally be dismissed; (b) it would not be dismissed if the petitioning creditor had a good arguable case that he was a creditor and the effect of dismissal would not be permitted to present a petition and thereby interfere with dispositions by the company of its assets and risk damaging the financial standing of the company.

It was submitted by the petitioner before their Lordships that that case, although right at the time it was decided, should no longer be followed. It was rightly pointed out, his Lordship said, that significant procedural changes had occurred since 1977. The likelihood of damage being done to a company through the existence of such a petition was now very much reduced.

It was hard to see why the Companies Court should now normally refuse notwithstanding the dispute as to the petitioner's locus standi but would be allowed to proceed so that the petitioner was

referee

## GREECE

FOCUS

**Michael Knipe on the task facing Costas Simitis and his Government: to reform the poorest state in the European Union**

# Improving economy brings fresh hope

**A**gainst a backdrop of blockades and strikes by a wide spectrum of the workforce, the Greek parliament is this week debating budget proposals that are generally perceived as a vital test of whether the country can overcome its chronic economic problems and raise its head in the European Community.

Since regaining power in 1993, the Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK) has made slow but marked progress in turning the economy around.

Inflation and unemployment

have been dropping, economic growth is increasing and trade has been booming with Eastern Europe and the neighbouring Balkan states. The Government

knows that it is

vital that these trends continue if Greece is ever to achieve its much desired goal of joining the European Monetary Union. But the positive developments are overshadowed by the labour unrest. Groups ranging from farmworkers to diplomats are protesting at the austerity measures in the budget.

"Metaphorically," one diplomatic observer said, "Greece had moved from a red flashing light to a green flashing light so far as its economy is concerned, but everything now depends on how the Government deals with the strikes."

The confrontation is a stern first

test for Costas Simitis, who suc-

ceeded the colourful Andreas Papandreou as Prime Minister 11 months ago.

When Mr Simitis took over as Prime Minister, the ailing Mr Papandreou remained leader of PASOK and it was not until the party congress in June that Mr Simitis became party leader as well. To some international surprise, he consolidated his authority by leading PASOK to victory in a general election in September.

In sharp contrast to his charis-

matic predecessor, who won three landslide election victories with

free-spending policies, Mr Simitis comes from the moderate social democratic wing of the party and it was evident from his previous stint as a minister that he favoured greater fiscal discipline.

He has a dry, academic manner and is regarded as a rather dull but worthy figure.

His priority is to rescue Greece from its plight as the poorest and economically sickest state in the EU. But his continuing hold on the leadership is likely to depend on whether he can get people back to work without emasculating the budget and, at the same time, retain the support of the populous left-wing faction of his party.

"It is a very ambitious and quite draconian budget," said its author, Yannos Papantoniou, the Minister for National Economy and Finance, in an interview in his office, as the labour unrest gathered strength.

For the first time we have adopted a severe stance on public expenditure, freezing subsidies, decreasing recruitment of staff and introducing a new wages structure that limits increases. It is always difficult to implement a tough budget. But it is vital that we do so. We cannot sacrifice the country's economic recovery to the demands of a minority."

His sentiments were echoed by Vasso Papandreou, a former EU Commissioner who is now Minister of Development in the Athens administration and responsible for expanding the Government's privatisation programme, speeding up the disbursement of EU grants and promoting domestic and foreign investment. She said: "We don't have any choice if we don't want to be left behind by our European partners."

Identification with the EU is a central tenet of Greek political thought. For years, as the poorest member of the union, the country has been on the receiving end of vast tranches of investment aid —

running at an estimated \$2 billion a year.

Under the current six-year grant programme of almost 15 billion euros, a total of 10,000 infrastructure projects are under way, including a number of large ones. These include a new Athens international airport, a bridge across the Corinth Gulf and the Egnatia highway linking the Adriatic with Istanbul.

Only now, as the Government attempts to impose the disciplines required for membership of the European monetary union (EMU), are the benefits of membership being matched by financial consequences.

The country has so far failed to attain any of the criteria laid down at Maastricht for membership of the EMU and is the only member state excluded from the launch of EMU planned for 1999. But it is determined to join by the year 2001. Failure to do so might result in its membership having to wait until the further enlargement of the union with the arrival of Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic,

said Mr Papantoniou — and that, he claimed, would effectively mean Greece losing the advantages of 20 years' membership.

Even amid the protest strikes, the Greeks remain fervent Europeans.

"Everybody assumes that the euro will be better than the drachma,"

said Thanos Veremis, director of the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy. There was a fear among Greeks, he said, of drifting out of Europe. Greeks

perceived themselves as being in a "bad neighbourhood" on the periphery and the only member state with no geographic border with the rest of the union. As a result, they saw membership very clearly in terms of European security. "The costs of being in the EU may rock the boat," he said, "but it will not capsize it."

"Unlike Britain, Greece actually wants to participate in the EMU," said Alexios Papadopoulos, the Minister of Internal Affairs and Administration, "so all our policies are directed towards this main goal."

Mr Papadopoulos is charged with restructuring the Government's bloated administration and is in the process of attempting to reduce the number of local government authorities from 6,000 to 1,200. Under another ambitious

administrative reform, only one new public employee may be hired for every five who leave.

Miltiadis Evert, the leader of the opposition New Democratic Party, bemoans the fact that, during the past 15 years, the country's economy has increased by only half the EU average. "Instead of closing the distance, we've increased it. What

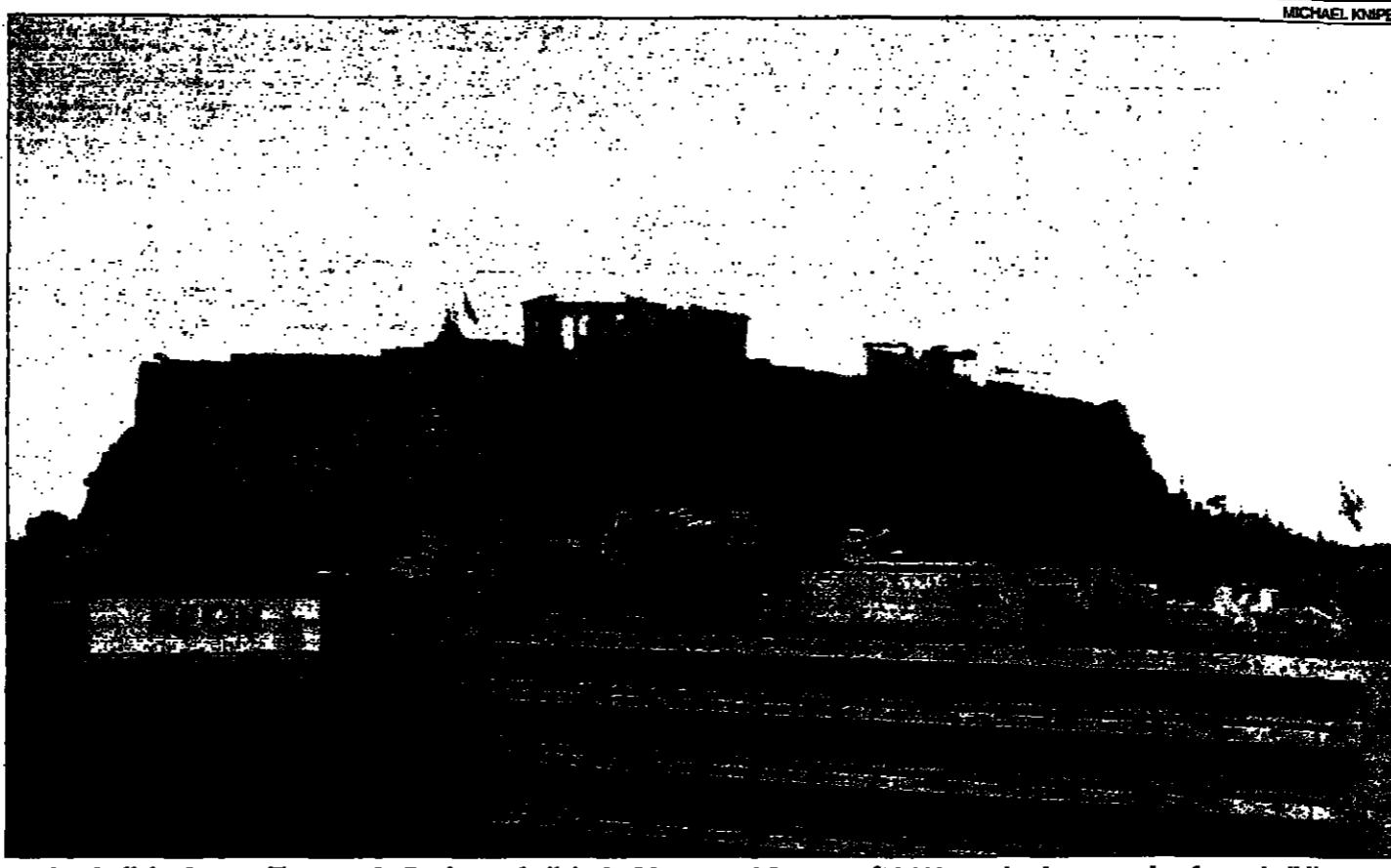
**ELGIN MARBLES**

THE GREEK Government is intensifying its longstanding efforts to repossess the Elgin marbles from the British Museum. Evangelos Venizelos, the Minister of Culture, said he was encouraged by the British Government's action of returning the Stone of Scone to Scotland.

He has put in a fresh request for the return of the marbles to the British ambassador in Athens and to the Heritage Ministry in London. If necessary, he intends to pursue the matter through political and legal procedures involving Unesco, the EU and the Council of Europe.

The marbles, consisting of friezes and figures from the Parthenon, were removed and saved from probable destruction by the seventh Earl of Elgin in 1803, with permission from the local Ottoman administration and sold to the British Museum.

Dating from between 467 and 432 BC, the friezes and figures are regarded as the best surviving examples of the work of Phidias.



Seeing the light: the sun silhouettes the Parthenon, built in the 5th century BC, as one of 10,000 new developments rises from a building site

## • The economy has moved from a red to a green flashing light

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# Tough budget riles unions

**John Carr** on how the Greek Finance Minister is trying to cater to the needs of his Socialist party yet still meet the demands of the Maastricht criteria

"In Greece it is not enough to wind your watch. To get it to work, you must also push the hands round with your finger."

This Aristophanean dictum, attributed to ex-President Constantine Karamanlis, the architect of Greece's European Union membership, well describes the purpose of the country's 1997 budget. The next few years will see a determined effort to keep this resources-poor nation of ten million people on the road to a vision of Europe-wide wellbeing.

The Maastricht treaty has already begun to change the way the traditionally freewheeling Greeks live and work. But old Mediterranean habits die hard, and the Greeks have never liked fingers being applied to them.

Yannos Papantoniou, the National Economy Minister, has the unenviable task of trying to chart the Maastricht course. He has remained famously impervious to the threats of the ruling Pasok party's left wing, and the unions it controls. Presenting next year's budget in November, he admitted it was the most controversial of the past 15 or so years. "It's a tough fight but a good fight," he said as the Greek General Confederation of Labour was dusting off the red flags for a one-day strike.

Is this a socialist government? The budget's outward rhetoric said so, but there the resemblance ends. Gross domestic product growth for next year is set at 3.3 per cent while inflation — now 8.3 per cent — is to be hammered down to 4.5 per cent. By some accounts, these are over-optimistic targets, and some business people are smirking. "We've heard it all before," a stockbroker in Athens said after the budget presentation. "Some of this looks unattainable."

Public-sector salary rises, a leading buster of the state sector over the decades, will be kept down to 8 per cent next year, while pensioners

## ECONOMY

**Pensioners will get rises of no more than 2 per cent**



Farmers in Larissa block the Athens highway in protest at the Government's austerity measures

will get rises of no more than 2 per cent. State revenue is expected to reach 14.8 trillion drachmas, against an expected 14.6 trillion for this year. Most of the rise is to be achieved by slashing tax benefits and raising at least a trillion more drachmas in direct tax revenue.

The dizzying rise of public spending is going to be slowed somewhat, with that for next year budgeted at 13.2 trillion drachmas, or 6.2 per cent over this year. The rise for this year over last was 15.1 per cent. Generally, the aim is for public-sector savings of up to 300 billion drachmas, and here is where the cynical smile comes in. "Revenue might show fatigue," is how a report on the Greek economic outlook published by a major American bank delicately puts it, "and the Government might be forced to take corrective measures in the summer."

There seems little doubt that the Government will make a determined effort to whittle down its budget deficit to or near 4.2 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), against the present 7.6 per cent.

The Maastricht convergence programme, designed to put the drachma in a position to drop neatly into the place reserved for it in the European single currency by 2001, provides for keeping the GDP growth rate well above 3 per cent and pumping the budget primary surplus up to 6.1 per cent (against 4.1 per cent now). That may be the easy bit.

More daunting are the Maastricht imperatives to keep on the run with inflation (1999 target: 3.3 per cent), squeezing real short-term interest rates to 6.2 per cent from their present 12.5 per cent and tackling the massive 35 trillion drachma public debt, melting it from 110 per cent of GDP to 103 per cent.

The task that could tax even Mr Papantoniou's smiling powers.

## A blessing in disguise

### STOCK EXCHANGE

Last month's collapse of Delta Securities, a small brokerage firm, prompted a share dealing scandal that rocked the Athens Stock Exchange (ASE), but it may have been a blessing in disguise for the Greek stock market.

Yannos Papantoniou, the National Economy Minister, has said: "The Athens Stock Exchange will come out stronger from its recent crisis, which will be seen eventually as a crisis of cleansing and modernisation."

The ASE, founded in 1876, is the sole regulated capital market where shares of listed Greek companies and government and corporate bonds are traded. The exchange plans to bring Greece's active bond market, presently traded over-the-counter, to the bourse next year.

The Athens market is capitalised at \$24 billion and has

instrumental in attracting much-needed overseas investment with successful investor roadshows in London, Boston and New York.

Dr Xanthakis said: "The Greek market has huge potential, because it is among the cheapest markets on fundamentals as well as offering a very attractive dividend policy."

The ASE received a fillip from last year's brokerage commission deregulation, reducing fees, while legal changes brought the market in line with EU directives concerning investment services and capital adequacy, as well as increasing transparency and liquidity. The market's development and transparency will be further boosted by a partial privatisation programme and the funding from the EU for a string of major infrastructure projects.

PHILIP PANGALOS

## Financiers battle against inflation

The Bank of Greece is helping to cool the economy's inbuilt tendency to overheat

Fast and wood-panelled, the office of the Governor of the Bank of Greece, Loukas Papadimos, is a quiet, comfortable place. He needs the quiet because his days are filled with the proper policy mix which, after much trial and error, can reasonably be expected to cool down an economy with an inbuilt tendency to overheat.

His own equable and soft-spoken character could also be a vital ingredient in getting a Socialist government to go along with his recommendations. "There are no fundamental differences between the bank and the Government on basic policy," he says. Which is his way of saying that even if the National Economy Ministry does have qualms from time to time about the central bank's relentlessly tight money policies, it knows it cannot offer anything better. Success in the battle against inflation is Mr Papadimos's biggest showpiece.

In the past two years, inflation has been pressed down from 11.1 per cent to 7.7 per cent (a consecutive rise for a few months last spring was blamed on an unavoidable spurt in oil and farm produce prices). "Our priority is to work out a policy that will bring inflation down at least three percentage points through the year," he says. "If rates have to rise temporarily as a result, then it will be a price worth paying."

Since 1994 the Bank of Greece has been officially independent of the Greek state. This means that its governor can no longer (theoretically) be subject to political pressures. It also indicates that the Government's target of 4.5 per cent inflation by the end of 1997 has a reasonable chance of being achieved.

Mr Papadimos's tenure is characterised by an emphasis on exchange-rate manipulation rather than money and credit controls to keep the drachma hard and ward off foreign speculative tentacles. Exporters and tour operators are unhappy, but the governor is sticking to his guns. A major

objective for 1996 has been to stabilise the drachma against a basket of European currencies.

But if quiet, confident conservatism reigns in the Bank of Greece, the same cannot be said of the commercial banking sector. For a start, as of January 1997 commercial banks are going to have to start paying more taxes. The basic corporate tax on profits rises from 35 to 40 per cent while, for the first time, they will be taxed on bonds and derivatives profits at 7.5 per cent. Some government officials say it is high time.

In the space of a year, banks have profited from sales of popular one-year treasury bills, 6 trillion drachmas' worth of which were sold this year, against 5.8 trillion last year. Foreign exchange deposits in the same period soared from 4.7 trillion drachmas to 5.2 trillion. Loans to the private sector this year will total 9.1 trillion drachmas, against 7.5 trillion last year. The 1997 projection is for 10.5 trillion. And in the space of a year, prime rates have followed deposit and interbank rates on a downward course, while consumer loan exposure has

skyrocketed. All these multiplying trillions have sharpened competition beyond what was imaginable when Greek banking reforms got under way in 1987.

The architect of those reforms, former corporate lawyer Theodore Karatzas, is now the governor of the National Bank of Greece, the country's biggest commercial bank. He and other bankers believe that the state banking sector will consist eventually of two or three big banks, and an equal number of large private banks. Who survives will depend on innovations, such as the penetration of the emerging Balkan markets by such institutions as the Commercial Bank of Greece and Ionian Bank.

If anything, the realignments in the banking sector will hone the banks' efficiency, reduce costs and rates and help the national effort to cool down the economy.

JOHN CARR

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PUBLIC POWER CORPORATION OF GREECE

## Rivals go to war in phones battle

TELECOMS

**D**ominating the view from the Athens office of Giacinto Cicchese, the managing director of Telestar Hellas, a mobile phone network, is the headquarters of the Greek state Hellenic Telecommunications Organisation (OTE).

Mr Cicchese could permit himself a smile that the Italian-controlled company had left the lumbering state telephone company far behind. That is, until recently.

For in 1997 OTE is to strike back with its own mobile service, a DC1800 mobile network. Potential partners have been shortlisted. Egged on by the European Commission — which does not approve of the Greek mobile phone service duopoly (Telestar's rival is a locally controlled firm, Panafon) — OTE is on the verge of starting up a cellular network that will cover mainland Greece and the islands.

On the face of it there is room for expansion. By the end of the year both Telestar and Panafon will boast 460,000 subscribers between them — a 50 per cent rise in just six months. Five per cent of Greece's 10 million people have a cellphone. Panafon — in which Vodafone has a 45 per cent stake — is front by a narrow margin.

But just when both companies, having spent £600 million in four years, were about to start dreaming of profits, OTE had to step in and spoil the fun. "For a long time," Mr Cicchese says, "the Greek state telephone company failed to realise what was going on."

Now the giant has awakened, both he and his rival, Socrates Kokkalis, are joining forces to challenge the challenger. The Greek Supreme Court has before it their argument that the original 1992 mobile telephony licensing agreement gives them exclusive rights in Greece until 2000. Lawyers for the utility counter that OTE was unfairly excluded from the 1992 bidding and that its fixed-wire access charges have remained unchanged in four years.

OTE has strong support, and not just in Brussels. Its 120 billion drachmas project, for which Credit Suisse First Boston is an official adviser, is wooing potential partners such as France's Bouygues, Germany's Mannesmann Europe and Britain's Orange.

The winner could be picked as early as this month. In technical terms, the DC1800 system has more than twice the capacity of the more conventional GSM systems which Panafon and Telestar operate. OTE's target is 40 per cent of the cellphone market in the next three years.



Costas Simitis, the Greek Prime Minister, was accused of mishandling the Imia affair

## Taxes could sink the fleet

**G**reek shipowners are one of the world's stock characters.

Since the heady days of the Onassis and Niarchos empires, they have built up and maintained a maritime power that rests on some \$60 billion in combined assets. John Carr writes.

Twenty-eight shipowners control more than 1 million tonnes of merchant hulls.

Most of those billions, and most of the hulls, have only a tenuous connection with Greece itself. The Greek flag is raised on only a third of their vessels; the rest are decorated with flags of convenience.

Now the Greek Government plans to impose a host of taxes on shipping and related activity as of January 1, 1997. The taxes, shipowners fear, might well drive masses of vessels away from the Greek flag and plunge the now-bustling port of Piraeus — not to mention the Greek economy — into terminal decline.

The magnates are not worried for themselves. Whether in Piraeus or New York or London or Monte Carlo, they can still control their 3,200 ships (130 million tonnes, or one-sixth of the global merchant fleet).

But most shipowners would like to maintain more than a name-only connection with their homeland. Besides, the Greek fleet of 29.5 million tonnes is almost exactly half the European Union total, which means Greece can steer European maritime policy.

In October the EC decided that Europe's shipping establishments need more, not

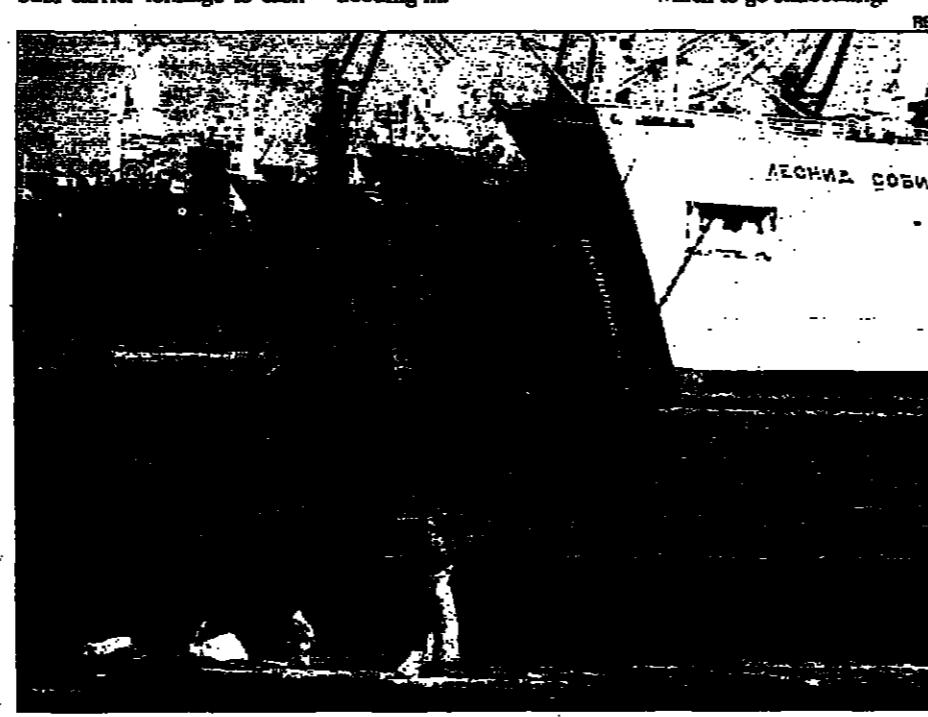
fewer, incentives to growth. Which makes the Greek Government's actions all the more inexplicable.

As of January, if all goes to plan, all tax exemptions on the buying and selling of vessels, transfers of ship equity in part or in whole, borrowing money from banks to buy ships and ship repair jobs are abolished.

Even before the tax change, low freight rates had slowed up a two-year shopping spree by the Greeks, who had been snapping up secondhand bulk carrier tonnage to cash

in on a vigorous Far East trade. This autumn, overcapacity and high overheads fuelled a flight from the Greek flag. The Government's blow falls just at the wrong time.

For passenger ferry operators, the future looks considerably rosier. Since war in former Yugoslavia choked off that country as a surface access route to Greece, truckers and motororing tourists alike have had to use the only alternative — the ferry route from Italy. Profits have come flooding in.



The Greeks have built up a shipping empire worth \$60 billion in combined assets

**A**s Greeks and Turks celebrate the coming new year, both will vividly recall that it is barely a year since President Clinton telephoned the leaders of both nations in a bid — successful, as it turned out — to avert a war in the Aegean between two Nato members.

Whether Greek-Turkish tensions erupt again in the course of 1997 may depend not only on the progress of international arbitration over the contested Aegean islands at the heart of the dispute a year ago, but also on another of the many points of contention between the two quarrelling members of Nato's southern flank: Cyprus.

Negotiations for Cyprus's membership of the European Union are due to begin as soon as the inter-governmental conference (IGC) on the revision of the Maastricht treaty is completed, which is likely to be by the end of 1997.

If Cypriot EU negotiations coincide with progress on resolving the bitter division of the island — with Sir David Hannay, Britain's special envoy, giving fresh impetus to

**Richard Owen reports on fresh efforts to ease tensions over Cyprus**

### FOREIGN AFFAIRS

UN efforts — Greek-Turkish relations will ease as a consequence.

However, given the mutual mistrust between Athens and Ankara, tensions could also arise on a range of unresolved issues from territorial waters and air space to drilling rights in the Aegean. Greece's Mediterranean policy — indeed, its overall foreign policy — is dominated by "the Turkish threat".

The 1996 "near war" involved round joint claims to a tiny, rocky and barren island in the Dodecanese chain, called Imia in Greek and Kardak in Turkish. It took all the skills of Richard Holbrooke, the senior American diplomat who had brokered the Bosnian peace agreement, to calm the situation down.

Costas Simitis, then as now Greek Prime Minister, was accused of mishandling the

affair, and in the ensuing row fired the then Greek chief of staff, Admiral Christos Lyberis.

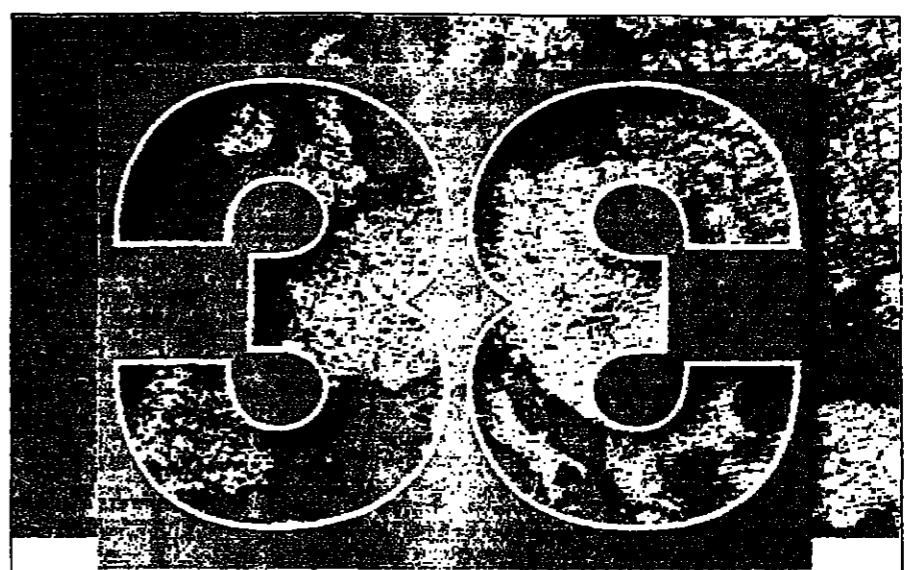
For the Greeks, Imia, which is under four miles from the Turkish coast, was and remains an issue of principle. The 1923 Treaty of Lausanne gave Greece most of the eastern Aegean islands except the Dodecanese. But they too passed to Greece (from defeated Italy) after the Second World War — although the Turks maintain that the wording of the 1947 agreement is ambiguous.

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long with Cyprus, the simmering row over Imia — and a thousand other tiny islands — has put the Greek-Turkish standoff near the top of the Western "problem solving" agenda after Bosnia. On the other hand, the West has

recent history offers plenty of scope for less optimistic forecasts, however. According to the UN, both Greece and Turkey are among the world's biggest importers of conventional weapons, and are building up their armed forces at a time when most Western nations are cutting back.



## Growth

3E's steady growth over the past years has been the result of the company's unrelenting commitment to customer satisfaction and its continuous long-term modernization initiatives.

Recently, 3E has started to expand beyond Greece. Driven by the same values and principles but with new goals in sight, 3E will continue its efforts to grow and progress, and to broaden its horizons.

## Broadening Horizons



ATHENS STOCK EXCHANGE

LINKING EUROPEAN UNION WITH  
THE BALKANS,  
THE BLACK SEA,  
THE MIDDLE EAST

In 1995 the Greek economy entered into an era of economic recovery. Close adherence to the Convergence Programme brought down inflation rate to single digit for the first time since 1973, while GDP increased by more than 2% which is above the target of the Convergence Programme. Likewise, interest rates on 1 year Treasury Bills decreased by approximately 3.3 percentage points since the end of 1994 and by almost 4 percentage points on an average basis. Private investment activity, which increased by 7% was complemented by a strong rise in public investment by 20%. The increase in private investment contributed to the worsening of the balance on current account. However, in the long run, the development of new infrastructure projects will increase employment and output.

The overall improvement in macroeconomic figures led to an upsurge of the Greek capital market. Equities market capitalisation at the end of 1995 equalled approximately GRD 4 trillion, thus showing an increase of 23% as against the end of 1994, while the A.S.E. General Price Index increased by 5.2% during the year, as opposed to a 9.3% decrease during 1994. Equities turnover increased by 11.3% over the year. Capital raised by IPOs in 1995 decreased by 75% since 1994 but the variety of companies being listed was reinforced. The P/E ratio equalled 9 at the end of 1995. The overall performance of all listed stocks, as defined by their daily price changes adjusted for dividend payments, improved in 1995, and the majority of stocks exhibited positive returns. Thus, in 1995, shares in the main and the parallel market showed a

return of 17.9% and 36.7%, respectively.

The introduction of new products into the capital market, as well as trading by remote access is expected to enhance the appeal of the capital market both to investors and to issuers. We believe that the sector most likely to outperform the General Price Index is the Construction companies as it will benefit from the implementation of major infrastructure projects financed by the E.U. Furthermore, the majority of listed companies will be influenced by the harmonisation and expansion of trade in the Balkan area, since as mentioned by the Emerging Markets Analyst: "...the Greek corporate sector will likely be the biggest commercial winter of the new Balkan peace agreements".

Trading facilities available from the newly established Exchange Center in Thessaloniki will extend the capacity of the capital market, while preserving its unity. Shares of companies operating in the Balkans are expected to be traded therein, reinforcing the international profile of the Greek capital market. Finally, the dematerialisation of shares within the first trimester of the year will speed up the settlement procedure. The ultimate goal is to achieve a settlement time of T+2, as opposed to T+4 which is the rule today.

Political and economic stability settles down to normal in the Balkan area, Greece assumes again its important position linking European Union with the Balkans, the Black Sea and the Middle East. It's time investors showed faith into the Greek capital market and established the ATHENS STOCK EXCHANGE as the NEW PLACE TO BE.

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## BALKAN INVESTMENT

## From rusty ships to football pools and ice cream

**N**ineteen years ago Constantine Kallentzis, a ship broker based in the northern Greek port of Salónica, received a strange request: Albania, then deep in Stalinist isolation, wanted him to run its tiny fleet of merchant ships.

"The regime was quite serious and genuinely seemed to want to learn how to do it," says Mr Kallentzis, who still manages the Albanian state merchant fleet — all of eight rusting hulls — as part of his Salónica business. Naftilos Maritime Limited.

For years he was one of the few foreigners allowed into Albania (he declines to say why the Albanians picked him). In 1991, when communism was history, Naftilos set up a branch in Albania's capital, Tirana. The country's economy remains one step away from chaos. Maritime law does not exist. The ships themselves are falling apart. "We're spending all our money on repairs," says Mr Kallentzis, although he admits his company earns an undisclosed freight commission from Albania.

Mr Kallentzis says the hardest task of all is to inculcate a modern business mentality in the Albanians. After 19 years, he is nothing if not patient. "You can't become a capitalist overnight," he says. Greek economic penetration of the Balkans thus far has required precisely that attitude.

Spearheading the pack is Intracom, an electronics and telecoms equipment conglomerate, which has ploughed

hundreds of millions of dollars into Balkan ventures from lottery and football pool systems to carphones. This year Intracom signed a \$40 million deal with the Bulgarian Government to computerise its state sports lottery in return for 5 per cent of the revenues.

Headed by Socrates Kokkalis, one of the most influential people in Greece, his unassuming manner and love of football (he owns Olympiakos) plays well in Eastern Europe. Building on the profits from state lotteries in Romania, Moldova and Russia, plus a 68 per cent stake in Bulfon, a Bulgarian telecoms firm supplying carphones, Intracom is pushing its line forward. Last month it signed a \$10 million contract with HTC, the Hungarian telecommunications organisation.

"You really don't have to try too hard in the Balkan markets," is how an executive of Hellenic Bottling Company sums up the very open market. The company handles the Coca-Cola franchise in Bulgaria and Romania. Delta Dairy SA, a big milk, yoghurt and ice cream producer, has built an ice cream factory in Varna, Bulgaria, and says it knows the secret of survival in a risky environment. "The return on investment should not be demanded back immediately," a company statement says. "Profits must be ploughed back for a couple of years."

JOHN CARR

Michael Knipe meets the Mayor of Athens, who is helping it to recapture the glory of Greece

# My dream is to bring home the Olympics

A giant crane is situated in the centre of the temple of the Parthenon atop the Acropolis and another in Syntagma Square, where the view of the elegant 19th-century Greek parliament is blocked by construction-work hoardings.

Amid the sprawling concrete apartment blocks of central Athens, the neoclassical delights of the Academy of Science, Athens University and the National Library buildings are similarly afflicted, with the surrounding pavements dug up and the pneumatic drills competing with the traffic noise.

The immediate cause of most of the construction work is the extensive excavations being carried out to implant a modern E1.25 billion three-line metro system. This has created more than 50 underground excavation sites across the city. The metro project is the primary element in a substantial programme of renovation aimed both at modernising Athens, recapturing something of the glory of its past, and reinforcing its efforts to host the Olympic Games in 2004.

For years the city has been synonymous with the worst symptoms of urban decline: toxic smog, traffic jams, overcrowding and incompetent administration. This was brought home to the world when it became evident that the monumental marble pillars of the Parthenon, having survived for 2,500 years, were crumbling away like sandstone because of the ravages of the 20th century.

The European Union declared Athens the most polluted city on the Continent. In a desperate attempt to alleviate the smog and congestion, cars have been banned, according to their registration on odd or even days. Last summer, temperatures of 102F forced the banning of all private cars and half of the taxis from the city centre.

With a population that has ballooned since the 1950s to 4.5

million — nearly half the population of Greece — Athens also has to cope with eight million visitors a year. Its infrastructure has been stretched beyond its limits.

But a new mood is emanating from the recently refurbished City Hall. Dimitris Avramopoulos, the Mayor of Athens, says: "There are a lot of changes under way. The first phase of the metro project will be ready for use next November and will serve half a million people a day. When it is completed it will have the effect of removing 400,000 cars off the streets."

"Athens, at present, is a huge workshop but even in a year's time a lot of things will be different. Already pollution has been reduced by 30 per cent."

This had been done, says the

functioned for the previous 17 years, and back into the original Athens city hall, an elegant neoclassical edifice which, during that time, had been left virtually derelict. At his direction the old municipal building, inaugurated in 1874, was redecorated in neo-Homeric grand style.

Visitors are greeted by a bust of Pericles on the landing of a great staircase. Oak doors, 15-feet high, dominate the palatial reception rooms. Ancient Greek and Macedonian motifs are everywhere. Two backlit glass cabinets house miniature effigies of all past mayors, meticulously costumed and startlingly life-like, in a miniature Madame Tussaud's.

The city flag — also an Avramopoulos concept — features a central profile of Athene, the goddess of wisdom. "The refurbishment of the city hall symbolises our determination to return Athens to its former glory," says Mr Avramopoulos. "Our first objective is to enhance the city's sense of its own identity, to reinforce its significance on the consciousness of its citizens. The future of this city is still its past, so we must protect our heritage."

"Athens should be a symbol for the whole world — for all the people who share the values that were born here. It is not the political capital of Europe, neither is it the cultural capital, but it is the historical capital."

The mayor heads a 40-strong city council, in which the New Democracy councillors enjoy a majority of ten, and operates with an annual budget of 107 billion drachma. Under the Government's austerity programme, he says, the Athens council cannot obtain any more funding from the central administration but it has been given the right to impose local taxes.

The first taxes it is imposing are

mayor, by the introduction of bylaws pedestrianising a triangular section of the city centre between Syntagma and Omonoia squares and the ancient Agora quarter, forcing the worst old cars and buses off the streets and closing down big industrial projects situated in the centre of the city. "I hope that by the end of the century, Athens will be one of the cleanest cities in Europe," he says.

The mayor, a suave and vigorous 43-year-old former diplomat and member of parliament for the conservative New Democracy Party, has, in the first two years of his four-year term as mayor, brought a dynamic style of leadership to municipal affairs.

Nothing illustrates this better than his decision to move his municipal office out of the drab 1960s concrete block where it had

functioned for the previous 17 years, and back into the original Athens city hall, an elegant neoclassical edifice which, during that time, had been left virtually derelict. At his direction the old municipal building, inaugurated in 1874, was redecorated in neo-Homeric grand style.

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## Unearthing a city below the pavements

Train tunnels have revealed ancient treasures, Helen Iatrou reports

ancient and modern versions of Athens have been unexpectedly exposed to each other through one of Europe's largest current construction projects — the development of the Greek capital's underground metro network.

Two giant excavators, known as the Metro Mice, are tunnelling a solution to Athens' suffocating transportation problem and have, in the process, uncovered a goldmine of archaeological finds. They date from Neolithic times, via the 2,500-year-old age of Pericles to the 14th-century Byzantine period.

Trapped for centuries under layers of rubble, the finds — 2,000 in all — are to be displayed not only in museums but also in their new setting alongside passengers' platforms, providing a novel feature compared to most other European metros.

"The metro's construction has proved to be the biggest archaeological excavation in recent times," says Li-ana Parlama, head of the 40 archaeologists supervising the finds. "Some amazing discoveries have been made, though damages have also, inevitably, been registered in the drive to complete the network."

Contractors say that, due to the difficulties posed in digging up a relic-rich city like Athens, an additional Dr 100 billion (E260 million) is required. Metro employees are back on the job but the two Metro Mice are taking a break until early next year while the parties concerned and the Government meet this month to find a solution to these technical problems.

Among the most important discoveries of the dig, which is 90 per cent complete, has been a marble column engraved with the names of 21 Athenian riders, and their tribe, killed during the SBC Peloponnesian Wars. One of the most ancient finds is an 11th-century BC grave of the

Metro Mice uncover a goldmine

What the archaeologist described as a "very pleasant surprise" was the discovery of a 100-metre ancient roadway, totally intact.



The Mayor of Athens: "The future of this city is still its past"

### INFRASTRUCTURE

Should we win it will be a fitting testament to the renaissance of our city

people a day, a new international airport with an annual capacity of 16 million passengers is due for completion in the year 2000 and comprehensive improvements to the road network will be finished."

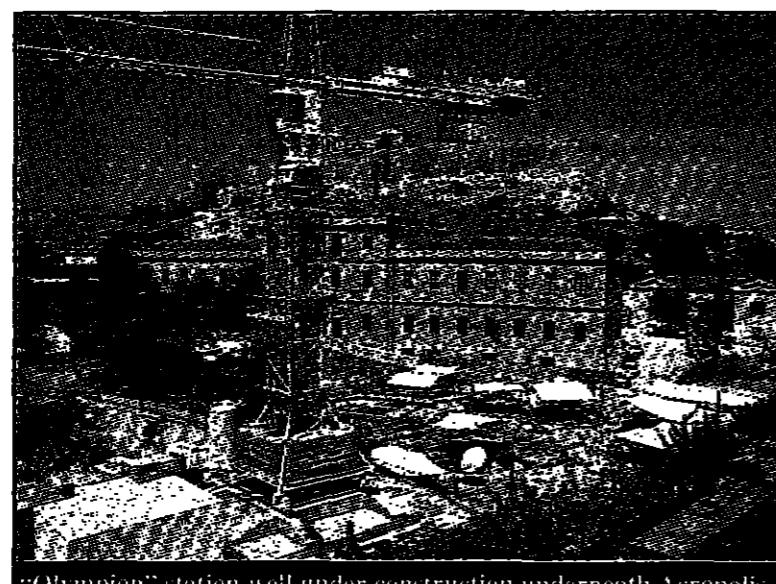
He maintains that the city, whose bid to host the games in 1996 failed, has a realistic prospect of hosting the 2004 Olympics. "Athens, this time, is ready," he says. "The Olympics infrastructure is 80 per cent complete. The new metro will be capable of carrying 780,000

people a day, a new international airport with an annual capacity of 16 million passengers is due for completion in the year 2000 and comprehensive improvements to the road network will be finished."

Athens is also, he claims, the Continent's least violent capital with the lowest rate of drug use. "There is a passion behind our bid to stage the Olympics. Should we win it will be a fitting testament to the renaissance of our city."

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provides guarantees to ensure the necessary sources through the completion of the project.

Today 3400 workers employed in more than 50 locations throughout the city are realising this enormous project on a day-to-day basis. To date, tunnelling operations have completed almost 10km of tunnels, while all 21 new stations are well under construction with works concentrated on architectural finishes and electromechanical installations. The majority of the archeological excavations that preceded the main construction works have covered a vast area of 70,000sq.m. revealing archeological finds 30 centuries old, have been almost completed. Plans have been made for some of these artifacts to be exhibited in mini-museums at selected stations of the new Metro lines.

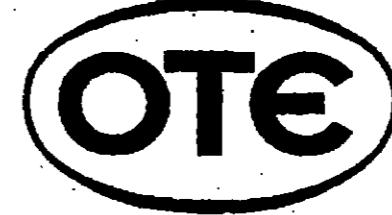
Unlike the past, Athens of today is determined to build a better future for the generations to come and in this future the Metro project may very well be a part of the gateway for the modern Greece of the 21st century.



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## HELLENIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS ORGANISATION S.A.



OTE is the telecommunication operator in Greece with a monopoly to provide fixed telephony until the year 2003.

In 1995 its income before tax was 830 million dollars and in 1996 as estimated, the net income before tax will be more than \$1 billion.

Its total revenues constitute some 2.5 percent of Greece's national GDP and it is the most profitable company in the country.

The remarkable organization is now changing from its base as a telecommunications monopoly into a modern, competitive company, determined to expand its markets and realize the strong potential of its position.

Its mission is to consolidate that position as the dominant telecommunications company in Greece, so that long before the year 2000 - when its domestic monopoly ends - it has a commanding lead, in not just voice telephony but also in the complete range of wireless data and other emerging telecommunication services.

This year alone OTE plans capital expenditure of 1.1 billion dollars. Over the next five years it has plans to spend more than 3.9 billion dollars on exchanges, networks and international projects. This investment will bring benefits throughout its operations.

OTE's capital expenditure will be financed by three sources. Firstly, it has strong cash flow. Given its projected rate of increase in revenues OTE expects future cash flow to be sufficient for funding both its operations and its investment plans.

Secondly, the equity offering has partially financed its 1996 Cap-ex.

Finally, a significant proportion of its capital expenditure will be increased by European Union subsidies or by joint ventures with strategic partners.

OTE's ambitious investment programme is reflected in the additional debt it has been incurring over the last few years. Though its net debt to equity ratio rose until 1995, the equity offering has returned leverage ratios to below those of 1992. OTE's balance sheet is very strong.

OTE has a significant potential for revenue growth. Operating costs should grow moderately and its capital expenditure should largely be financed through its cash flow. That means it expects to see strong bottom-line growth. Net income is expected to grow by a compound annual rate in double digits over the next five years. This is a healthy picture.

OTE has seen both revenues and profits grow significantly. Its revenues have grown at an annual compound rate of 8% in real terms, rising from 211 billion drachmas (\$379 million) in 1990 to 593 billion drachmas (\$2.5 billion).

In order to increase further its revenues, OTE is implementing a substantial capital expenditure programme to modernize its network, in an investment that enables the company to bring real, tangible benefits to its revenue stream.

Digitalizing its network also enables OTE to time-charge local calls and increase revenues by charging the full duration of each call. By the year 2000 the company should reach 80% digitalization of the entire country, so it will be doubling its revenues from this untapped market.

OTE's network is becoming more and more sophisticated and is able to introduce new value-added services such as voice mail, call-redirection and call waiting.

Finally, by increasing the number of completed calls in this

way OTE can further boost revenue from its fixed telephone network.

The company is already seeing a positive change in its revenue mix, income from new services, which provide higher margins, is taking a greater share of its total revenues. Its operating income rose by 15% and its net income also rose by 11% each year.

Its margins have been rising in the last few years. The operating margin rose from 27% in 1992 to 40% in 1995. In the same period its net margin rose from 16% to 24%. These figures reflect OTE's ability to rapidly adapt to more modern operating conditions, with a steadily improving network, a business-minded management team and a rationalized work force.

It also has considerable flexibility to rebalance tariffs. Time charging for local calls is realizing untapped revenues in its basic telephony business. It is introducing new value-added services and it looks forward to the increasing traffic generated by PCN, paging and its expanding international services. OTE's forecasts suggest that its revenues will continue to grow at a double-digit rate.

In the field of operating costs OTE has seen annual growth, in real terms of 4% during the past five years.

As it grows OTE is focusing on operating more efficiently and controlling labour costs and has a strategy for rationalizing staff levels. At the same time it is realizing efficiencies by restructuring its organization.

There will be an increase in its sales and marketing workforce, particularly in view of enhanced focus on the customer. On balance, though, it expects staff costs will continue to decrease.

The increased productivity becomes most obvious when viewed on a 'line per employee' basis. OTE's current ratio of 210 lines per employee is so good that it ranks 5th amongst European telecommunication companies. And it will get better. By 2000 the company expects the figure to rise.

The company is determined to take advantage of the remarkable opportunity it faces today and to focus on its activities within the domestic Greek market, which forms the heart of its operations.

Its market share is expected to increase steadily in the coming years. In this way its investment programme will deliver real benefits to its business in terms of increasing both revenues and customer satisfaction.

To achieve its goal of creating a competitive company culture, OTE has segmented its customer base. Each segment has distinct service requirements and revenue-producing potential.

To serve them, the company has established distinct channels dedicated to understanding their specific needs.

During the past year OTE has successfully established a major accounts management team and is currently upgrading its nation-wide chain of tele-shops.

To support these sales channels, OTE has developed a portfolio of products and services which can be tailored to the segments they serve and be provided to residential customers with basic telephone lines as value added services, which widen the company's offerings to the customer and aid its move into the mobile telephony market.

Greece is an exciting country with an emerging economy. Telecommunications is one of the world's most dynamic industries. In OTE these opportunities go hand in hand.



## ■ THEATRE 1

Jessica Lange prepares for her West End debut in the 'inexhaustible' role of Blanche DuBois



## ■ THEATRE 2

... while, on Broadway, Joel Grey wows the crowds in the Kander and Ebb musical *Chicago*



## ■ THEATRE 3

A miniature Sondheim musical, *Marry Me A Little*, comes to the London fringe



## ■ TOMORROW

Has Alan Parker succeeded in turning *Evita* into a great film? Read Geoff Brown's view

**THEATRE:** A double Oscar winner hits the West End in a modern classic; plus reviews from New York and London

# Looking for the right home in Tennessee

**F**ew theatrical debuts in recent years seemed as brave as that by Jessica Lange on Broadway in 1992. In a season in which movie stars were returning to the stage en masse — Glenn Close, Gene Hackman and Richard Dreyfuss in *Death and the Maiden*, Alan Alda in Neil Simon's *Jakes Women* — Lange was making her New York professional stage debut as Blanche DuBois in Tennessee Williams's *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Not bad or someone whose theatrical CV up to then consisted of early work during her expatriate period in France and a summer stock production in North Carolina of an original play whose name she no longer remembers.

Fourteen years as partner to the pre-eminent American dramatist Sam Shepard, however, presumably counts for something: although Lange says the couple do not talk theatre — "our lives are so filled up with children and other things that that kind of stuff within the home takes precedence" — she clearly recognises quality when she finds it. (Lange has three children, two by Shepard and an older daughter by her previous companion, Mikhail Baryshnikov.)

In the event, director Gregory Mosher's *Streetcar* revival, with Alec Baldwin as Blanche's destroyer, Stanley, did near-capacity business for six months. On the strength of those names, Amy Madigan's Stella included, how could it not? It was bolstered by a Tony Award nomination for Baldwin and a steamy ad campaign promising an evening of sweaty sex that Williams's tragedy is hardly about. But along with the crowds came a cache of disappointed (and some damning) reviews alongside sense — on Lange's part, at least — of unfinished business.

That is why the two-time Oscar-winner, now 47, accepted Peter Hall's offer to tackle the part anew in the West End, having followed the Broadway run with a separate

**Will London prove a happier hunting ground for Jessica Lange in her third shot at Blanche DuBois? Matt Wolf reports**

CBS television version that again featured Baldwin (with Diane Lane and John Goodman as Stella and Mitch). At a point when most performers would have filed away their reviews and moved on, Lange is preparing a third Blanche, suggesting in the process a devotion to the role comparable on this side of the Atlantic to Kenneth Branagh's pursuit of *Hamlet*.

"This character is pretty inexhaustible," Lange says. "I never tire of the discovery of Blanche. I just knew with a different cast [Toby Stephens and Imogen Stubbs as Stanley and Stella] and a different director, it was going to have a whole separate life from the other two I had done before, and it does. I haven't given one thought to the run we did in New York."

Lange is not keen to dwell on the Broadway engagement. "What soured me about that experience was that it wasn't the right combination, and had I been more experienced, I would have understood it wasn't right." But she defends a decision about which "I suppose you could say I was foolishly, but I never thought of it like that. Blanche was a part I really loved and thought I could play and bring something to, and I felt that if I was going to do theatre, I wanted to do something that meant something to me."

The headlines about movie stars invading Broadway do not had their own damaging effect. "I think that worked against all of us. It's like when you live in a small town

and you see a provincial snobbery based on nothing — that's how I feel about the New York theatre world; they have this pretentious snobbery when, I mean, I can barely sit through most Broadway plays. But they're commercial. It's the same thing with films — they're commercial but they're nothing I can sit through and they make \$150 million."

"The bottom line is I think I'm just out of the loop. What I like other people don't like, and what other people flock to, I find unbearable."

In any case, Lange became a film star more by circumstance than conscious choice, and is quick to forestall any idea that theatre is something to which she might be returned. "It wasn't that, back in acting class in the 1970s, I said to myself, well, I'm going to do movies. I'm not going to do theatre," says the actress, who began her screen career in King Kong's fury paw before establishing her heavyweight credentials in 1982 with back-to-back performances in *Tootsie* and *Frances*, the latter of which introduced her to costar Shepard.

Lange says: "You kind of get taken along the path destined for you. I started getting film roles, and it just became more and more that. It was never a decision that I wanted to be a film actor as opposed to a theatre actor; it was just the work that came my way." The problem, of course, is that once launched, screen careers have to be maintained — so that even if you

want to do theatre, that may not be the wish of the numerous business interests that surround you.

"The first time I did Blanche, nobody wanted me to do it; the second time," Lange laughs, "nobody has ever made decisions for me. I've been influenced sometimes against my better judgment to do something. I feel strongly I shouldn't do. I let myself get talked into it because of those very reasons — it's commercial, it's money — and it has always been a mistake."

She praises the "much healthier attitude to acting in Britain. In America, because of the money involved and because of the machinery of Hollywood, it is really an unhealthy environment for actors. The rewards are actually very destructive because they are so out of proportion to the talent and it is all extremely seductive. If people are going to get \$15 or \$20 million to do some bad part in some bad movie, they're going to take that instead of making a couple of hundred dollars a week rehearsing a play; it has to do with the integrity of the individuals."

Beyond Blanche, Lange cites the Princess in *Sweet Bird of Youth* and O'Neill's Mary Tyrone as roles she would like to do on stage, though she turned down a chance at Chekhov's *Three Sisters*, claiming she was too old to play any of them. Theatre work with Shepard remains an unfulfilled hope: "If there were ever a part for me in his plays, I would do it, and I would love to be directed by Sam on stage. I know the work I did on stage in New York was good, and I also know when I've been lazy. With a part like Blanche, you can only be honest with it. I can't create a performance; it either feels true or it doesn't, and this is such an emotional part, it has always felt true to me when I've done it."

● *A Streetcar Named Desire* is in preview from tomorrow and opens on December 30 at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket (0171-920 8800).



Jessica Lange: "What I like, other people don't like, and what other people flock to, I find unbearable"

I can barely sit through most Broadway plays

If you judge by the box-office takings, and nothing else, Broadway is in terrible shape. In a single recent week these amounted to a record £8 million. But if you inspect the figures closely you find that almost all the money was made by a dozen or so mega-musicals, plus the conjuror David Copperfield, who somehow magicked an astounding £800,000 to the Martin Beck Theatre. Moreover, nothing much has arrived since the season's start in September bar a couple of British imports (*Skylight*, *Taking Sides*), a disappointing American production of Noel Coward's *Present Laughter*, and a revival of the musical *Chicago*.

Well, at least *Chicago* has qualities seldom found on the Great White Way these days: class, style, wit and a sophisticated scepticism. Kander and Ebb's musical was upstaged by *A Chorus Line* when it first appeared in 1975, and many critics thought it offputtingly cynical; but it still managed to run for 898 performances. Now it may do even better, for recent events have left its sharp-eyed, snappy-tongued view of celebrity justice looking a lot less fanciful. Who dare claim these days that American juries reach their verdicts on the basis of the truth and nothing but?

Clive Paget directs the admirable flexible stage of this theatre and Rowland Lee accompanies on the piano.

JEREMY KINGSTON

## Beyond the cringe

Joey & Gina's Wedding  
Café Royal

If you judge by the box-office takings, and nothing else, Broadway is in terrible shape. In a single recent week these amounted to a record £8 million. But if you inspect the figures closely you find that almost all the money was made by a dozen or so mega-musicals, plus the conjuror David Copperfield, who somehow magicked an astounding £800,000 to the Martin Beck Theatre. Moreover, nothing much has arrived since the season's start in September bar a couple of British imports (*Skylight*, *Taking Sides*), a disappointing American production of Noel Coward's *Present Laughter*, and a revival of the musical *Chicago*.

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The show opens with a chorus of murderesses lamenting the fact that, though they have done nothing worse than stay husbands who objected to their extra-marital liaisons, they are stuck in Cook County jail. But two of them, Bebe Neuwirth's Velma and Ann Reinking's Roxie, take a more positive view. Aided by a publicity-wise lawyer ("If Jesus Christ had lived in Chicago and had \$5,000, things would have turned out very differently"), they use their notoriety as a route to the jurors' hearts and, at least until a more sensational killer turns up, stardom on the vaudeville circuit.

The show is designed as the perfect office-party cringe-binge, where nobody can avoid participating and even Miss Muffet from accounts to be a spoilsport to demur.

SORRY.

JIM MCCUE

## Tuned into our sceptical times

Benedict Nightingale enjoys a fine Broadway revival of Kander and Ebb's courtroom musical, *Chicago*

through me, walk right by me, and never know I'm there". It is as if a post-socialist Brecht were to set *The Threepenny Opera* in what's nominally the 1990s but, by inference, the 1990s. And the message is unmissable: the law-and-order system is another branch of showbiz.

I left the Richard Rodgers Theatre feeling it would make an ideal counter-Christmas show for Sam Mendes's *Donmar*, and lo and behold, I returned home to hear rumours that he may indeed stage it there before long. Certainly, a prime strength of

Walter Bobbie's fine production is a simplicity seldom seen on Broadway. Mostly, the stage is filled with a bank of musicians, principally brass players, leaving a thinning shelf on which men and women in all-black stockings, jackets, shorts, bras, whatever, sway and swirl in dances choreographed by Reinking in the manner of the late, great Bob Fosse. Imagine an elegant entertainment from some slick but sleazy corner of Hades, and you have the evening's sinister glamour.

If that's Broadway at its best, *Present Laughter* at the

Walter Kerr shows it at its overblown worst. Up goes a posh 18th-century frontage to reveal a living room to make the builders of Blenheim feel penny-pinching. It is the home of Noel Coward's Garry Essendine, matinee idol and egomaniac, whose world is in emotional turmoil as he prepares to leave for a tour in what the cast's sometimes suspect British accents insist on rechristening "Africa".

Frank Langella, who plays him is a fine, funny actor but, like others in the company, too often opts for the camp, broad gesture and too obviously nudges and tickles the audience and its armpits. And not content with coarsening Coward, the director, the young and fashionable Scott Elliot, brings his sexual subtleties spurningly to the surface. Garry's would-be mistresses strip to their underwear and beyond, while the Angry Young Man who haunts him gives him the full-frontal treatment. The Master would have winced and, had he been less well bred, thrown up.

'PURE, UNADULTERATED PLEASURE' The Times

**CHÉRUBIN**

MASSENET

Conducted by John Eliot Gardiner

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Fancy a dream house for Christmas? Rachel Kelly, Amanda Loose and Rossella Lorenzi spot some fine buys at home and abroad

## An ideal home for the 1990s

The Christmas holiday is an excellent time to reflect on how our homes fit our life-styles — and almost half of us would up sticks to the country if we could.

A new Abbey National survey found that 40 per cent of us dream of buying a country house or a thatched cottage, with only 24 per cent wishing to stay in town.

Herewith *The Times's* guide to the nation's most desirable homes. Some are festive cheer and mulled wine, houses, as *Country Life* put it recently, redolent of Washington Irving, Pickwick and plum pudding.

But not all are holly-bedded, with fireplaces that demand the roasting of chestnuts. We have also included some stylish city pads, too, for those of us who remain resolute urbanites.

They might even prove the most extravagant of Christmas gifts, but be minded of one Danish tycoon who bought a Highland estate on a romantic whim for his wife, unseen by her. It went back on the market a week later because she disliked the rain.

They are the houses that agents have chosen to be most in keeping with the desires of buyers in the 1990s. The savvy may deliberately buck the trends: buy a very different set of bricks and mortar, and bargains are there for the taking.

But for those tired of talk of dream homes in a market tattered by scarcity, take cheer from the story of *Times* readers Fran and Julian Edwards.

Frustrated by months of

fruitless searching, they eventually fell for a Georgian house in a Somerset village.

"As soon as we saw it, we knew it was the house for us," recalls Mrs Edwards. "A detached Grade II listed Georgian house with beautiful sash windows, and a large south-facing garden. It was spacious, unlike modern houses, and the classic symmetry of the square rooms had not been spoilt by modernisation. In a way, it was a blank canvas — beautiful and elegant — and with potential."

But it wasn't up for sale. Undeterred, the Edwards rang and put in an offer. It was the culmination of a three-year attempt to leave suburbia.

"We wanted to slow down and move to a period house in the country. We had a huge mortgage on our house in Wallington, Surrey, so we were both working to pay it off all the time. And we hated the noise, dirt and traffic," says Mrs Edwards.

"Moreover, our Surrey house was newly built and we were uncomfortable. We wanted space and just didn't feel it fitted in."

"We were searching for a period four-bedroom house with plenty of land. We had just started a new business and our daughter Kate was just about to start her GCSEs, so it seemed like an ideal time to move."

It took 18 months to sell the Surrey house in August 1995. But they could find nothing to buy, so rented a house in Wells, Somerset, while they continued their search. As weeks turned to months, they began to despair.

"Although it wasn't for sale,

"We started by looking in a ten-mile radius of Wells because Kate did not want to live in the back of beyond," says Mrs Edwards. "We were on all the agents' lists, but we couldn't find anything we liked."

"There was so much interest in country houses. Most of the competition was from other people wanting to move from London. Eventually, we began to look at almost anything."

But last January, the couple spied Lodge Hill House, while driving through Westbury-sub-Mendip, four miles from Wells.

"Although it wasn't for sale,

"we noticed that two houses were being built in its grounds, so we introduced ourselves, saying we were interested in them. Eventually, we said to the owner that his house was very nice, and he told us to make him an offer. He was thinking of moving later in the year, so we just speeded things up," says Mrs Edwards.

After two valuations, they put in an offer for £225,000, just over the odds for a quick sale. But the owner wanted £250,000 and did not want to move until the end of the summer. So they kept looking, but couldn't find anything that they liked as much.

"Towards the end of the summer, we heard that the owner was putting Lodge Hill House on the open market. We felt we simply couldn't risk someone else buying it, so we put an offer for £250,000 on the table, at the beginning of August. Cluttons handled the sale, and we moved in on August 30. Our friends really envy us and quite a few want to move down here, too," says Mrs Edwards.

"This will be our first Christmas in what for us is a dream home."

NICHOLAS CROWTHSWRINE



Julian and Fran Edwards with daughter Kate in their listed Georgian home

## Succumb to the lure of idyllic village life

Rupert Bradstock, of the buying agency Property Vision, best describes the country idyll of would-be buyers on his firm's books: "Everyone's dream is a classical or Georgian house, situated on the edge of a village, preferably in an area of outstanding beauty, in unspoilt countryside, where they are protected from future building developments and within easy reach of London."

East Dean Manor in Hampshire, could be the answer. The £750,000, 18th-century Grade II\* listed Queen Anne house is nine miles from Salisbury. With six bedrooms and six acres of land, a separate flat, indoor swimming pool and sauna, as well as woodland and paddock, there are 120 yards of double and single-bank fishing on the River Dun, which flows through the grounds.

The £255,000 Butter Street Cottage, on the edge of the village of Nonington in Kent, is voted the ideal weekend retreat by Conrad Payne, of Cluttons. The Grade II listed thatched and timber-framed cottage dates back to the 16th century, has a swimming pool, is surrounded by farmland and has a paddock with underground parking and

portage and access to the square's private gardens."

For the athletic, an all-weather tennis court and croquet lawn are planned.

This last is for the seriously wealthy only. Eighty-one Addison Road, in Holland Park, west London, is for sale at £5 million. The five-bedroom house has everything, including a gym, steam room, outdoor swimming pool and carriage drive.

David Forbes of Chesterfield, the agent, says: "It is rare to find a wide, double-fronted detached family home, and when they come on the market, they are highly sought after."

"The house has been completely rebuilt, behind the period facade, and it provides practical space combined with outstanding design."

• East Dean Manor, John D. Wood (01962 853131).

• Butter Street Cottage Cluttons (0127 457441).

• Monkton House, Knight Frank (0131 223 8171).

• Two-bedroom flats in Charlesworth House from LCR Developments (0171-344 0889).

• 81 Addison Road, with a 69-year lease, Chesterfield (0171-581 5234).

AMANDA LOOSE



The dream home for £5 million: 81 Addison Road

Northern Italy offers some unusual — and spiritual — properties

## Blessed are the church buyers

ROSSELLA LORENZI

For a truly spiritual Christmas, what about buying an Italian church? The British have already turned "Chianti" into a Home County; now there is the prospect of chintz curtains adorning Tuscan churches.

The Curia of Siena, unable to continue looking after all its properties, last month took the unusual step of offering five rural churches in the Chianti region at bargain prices. The sale includes valuable

Romanesque buildings, complete with bell towers, porticos and gardens. Church estates and other buildings are also on the market.

Giacomo Bonicelli, the Archbishop of Siena, says: "These churches are a burden on the diocese. They used to serve congregations of at least 300. Now, only two or three families live there. If we do not sell them, they will be ruins. It is time to look to the future. With the proceeds, we will build new churches in more populated areas."

The buyer is bound by restrictive covenants and architectural restraints to avoid upsetting restorations and inappropriate use; this is not for the faint-hearted. Potential owners must first apply to view the churches. As the parties come to an agreement, the sale needs to be approved by the Fine Arts Superintendent, who can take about six months to decide whether to let the sale go ahead. If, to safeguard historic interests, the superintendent forbids the transaction, the case passes to Rome where it can take up to three years to resolve.

The buyers pay a reasonable sum in advance; any settlement is made after the superintendent or the ministry in Rome has authorised the sale.

The properties are worth the trouble. In Sovignano, a charming village half-way between Montalcino and Siena, where the rolling hills of Chianti merge into the wild, tawny landscape of southern Tuscany, the tiny church of San Stefano is for sale at about £165,000. Surrounded by a large garden, it comes with a well-kept 200sq m rectory on two floors.

About £220,000 will buy the church of San Jacopo in Cortenaccio, a 13th-century village overlooking San Gimignano's stunning skyline of towers. The price

includes a 12-room rectory and a large garden surrounded by cypresses.

A few kilometres south of Cortenaccio, much of San Donato village is for sale. The tiny church and the 300sq m rectory will cost £200,000; a 60sq m stone cottage £80,000 and a 210sq m house £180,000. For £145,000, you can buy the church of Santa Maria in Torni a Castello, near Castelnuovo Berardenga, and the 180sq m rectory on two floors.

Priests in Chianti have risen so rapidly that even the most decrepit barn can cost a fortune. New construction is banned, so the market rarely offers anything other than expensive ruins.

Given the number of people who flock to peep through the windows of the churches on sale, owning one seems a real



For sale at £200,000: San Michele, Castiglion del Bosco

status symbol. Silvia Terlind, a housewife from Florence, says: "I have always dreamt of living in Chianti, but it was impossible because of the prices. I can hardly believe that my family may have the chance to live in a house that is already blessed."

Buying a church is not easy. The Curia of Siena has been overwhelmed by applications — more than 300 in less than a month.

Priority will be given not to the highest bidder, but to the kind of plans the potential owner has.

The archbishop confides: "We know that these churches may give architects great scope for innovation, but we intend to privilege those who will restore them without making any conversion. After all, the adjoining rectories offered with the churches can still make homes of character."

No decision has been taken on the church of San Michele in Castiglion del Bosco, a neat village north of Montalcino, which is for sale at about £200,000, although talks are under way. Artistically, the tiny church is the most interesting on the market because it features the frescoes of the Annunciation by Pietro Lorenzetti, the artist who, with Giotto, Cimabue and Simone Martini, painted the frescoes of the Basilica of St Francis in Assisi. Giuseppe Buono, manager of the Castiglion del Bosco wine estate, says: "We are very interested in the church and the rectory. If we buy it we will give visitors the opportunity to see the frescoes."

The Curia has just put San Fedele, an empty and isolated hamlet near Radda in Chianti, on the market for about £300,000. The hamlet, in need of much restoration, includes eight houses, a chapel and Romanesque church.

"San Fedele is the sort of village that makes the English want to leave their country," the archbishop says.

• Application for the churches should be sent to Don Tito Rovai, Ufficio Nuove Chiese, Via Liguria 6 (Vico Alto), 53100 Siena; fax 0575-33562. Further details: Giuseppe Pini, tel. 0575-577-20588. For San Fedele, contact Bruno A. French on 0171-355 8244 or fax 0171-355 8248.

ROSSELLA LORENZI

## An inspirational Christmas

PUBLISHERS have outdone themselves this Christmas with books for decorators.

The big names of interior design are out in force. Nina Campbell, the queen bee of traditional decoration, has published *Nina Campbell on Decorating* (Conran Octopus, £25), and Tricia Guild, of the Designers Guild, has written *Tricia Guild in Town: Contemporary Design for Urban Living* (Quadrille, £25). Along with Emma-Louise O'Reilly's *The Perfect Country Room*

(Conran Octopus, £20), these books are for interior junkies although too big for any but the most enormous stockings.

Both Ms Campbell and Ms Guild take us round their very different London homes. Ms Guild's flamboyant urban home contrasts with the classic English style of Ms Campbell's country house interiors. Both offer advice to imitators.

Ms Guild suggests painting walls while the plaster is still wet for a mottled look; Ms Campbell recommends read-

ing Pamela Innes's *Furniture, and Backgrounds and Borders* (Aurum Press, £12.95), or *Jocasta Innes's Trade Secrets: Classic and Contemporary Surfaces and Finishes* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £19.99).

The aged look is de rigueur. The more distressed your walls look, the better. From marbling, to creating frescoes in your bathroom, to "crackled glazing" a tray, these books show you how.

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# RACING

## Lack of seasonal cheer as BHB strives for unity

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

**AN UNEASY** stand-off — truce would be over-egging it — between those who run racing and others who think they could do the job better emerged yesterday at the equivalent of the sports annual general meeting in London.

Christmas is only a week away but there was precious little goodwill in the air as representatives of the industry's diverse factions gathered for the British Horseracing Board (BHB) industry committee forum at the Royal Geographical Society.

However, the inquest into racing's ills, notably the failure to obtain a cut in betting duty from the recent Budget, did not provoke the bloodbath, or demands for resignations which some had feared.

In the end, there was one undignified spat, between Lord Wakeham, the BHB chairman, and Peter Savill, the outspoken member of the Racehorse Owners' Association council (ROA) and fiercest critic of the BHB leadership. There was also some surprisingly ineffectual questioning from a phalanx of owners' representatives which largely missed its target.

For its part, the BHB leadership promised an all-embracing review to examine the key issues — particularly financial — facing the sport, unveiled the first moves towards a financial plan for racing and insisted racing must speak with one voice.

However, although Lord Wakeham and Tristram Ricketts, chief executive of the BHB, emerged relatively un-

scathed from the two-hour meeting, the silent majority within racing left far from convinced. A complaint about "lack of leadership," raised by Lady Burnham, president of the ROA, during the question and answer session, found an echo afterwards with several people.

Not surprisingly, given the uproar which followed last month's Budget disappointment, the BHB leadership was well prepared for its critics yesterday and set a trap which their opponents walked into obligingly.

Wakeham, and then Matthew McCloy, chairman of the industry committee, went out of their way to stress the BHB's democratic nature and how the Budget submission had the agreement of all racing's organisations. Individuals with personal views must win their arguments before their own councils, McCloy said pointedly.

So when Peter Savill, Sir Eric Parker and Jim Furlong, the ROA council members who have been most critical of Wakeham and Ricketts, let rip, Wakeham was able to point out how their association had been party to the BHB policy.

Wakeham went further, and may wish he had not. With Savill clearly in mind, he said: "That disproportionate damage is done to racing's case by a small minority of publicity-seeking individuals who, although having no influence, consistently seek to undermine the board's authority."

When Savill said the BHB

seemed to be acting as a rubber stamp to the industry committee, in the same way the Queen rubber stamped the work of the House of Commons, Wakeham retorted: "I fear residence in the Cayman Islands has denied whatever constitutional knowledge you have at one time."

The sideswipe at Savill living in the Cayman Islands, where he is a tax exile, was repeated when Savill tried to interrupt. Wakeham: "Now, come on, just sit yourself down and listen to me answer the question," the BHB chairman said. "You've had your say, now quietly sit down and when I have finished you can ask another question. That is the democratic way in this country; it may not be where you come from."

The exchange is unlikely to heal wounds and help prompt the unity within racing which the BHB chairman stressed was crucial if the sport is to achieve its aims. What is unclear is how representative the views of Savill and his colleagues are among owners and within racing at large. The ROA delegation certainly appeared rather isolated yesterday; almost a voice in the ten-year-old radiated class as he strode to a resounding victory.

Over a trip two miles shorter than his Ainfield triumph, Rough Quest produced a performance beyond the range of the majority of Grand National winners. A combination of minor injuries, fast ground and recent abandonments has frustrated his trainer, Terry Casey, who anxiously sought an opportunity before the King George VI Chase on Boxing

Day. This contest was far from ideal but the horse took it in his stride, in the process serving notice that One Man will have to be at his very best in the Kempton feature. Ladbrokes responded by trimming Rough Quest to 5-1, from a point longer.

A marvelous cameo developed on the long run round to the final flight as Mick Fitzgerald, who sat motionless aboard Rough Quest, stalked Destin D'Estrael, the mount of David Bridgewater. It prompted uncomfortable memories for Bridgewater, who performed a similar chore on the Martin Pipe-trained Encore Un Peu, the runner-up at Aintree. Now, as then, the two jockeys exchanged words: "I won't repeat

David's exact comments," Fitzgerald later related, "but he said: 'That's the second time you've done it to me on the same horse'."

It is a long way from Becher's Brook to this run-of-the-mill venue. No racecourse distils the brave quite like Aintree, but Rough Quest must have sensed the unexpected from the paddock door of his untrained opponents. As Pet Lad dropped his rider and Over The Water threatened to start his race there and then, Rough Quest surveyed the scene with wry detachment. He had seen all this — and plenty more.

Even at the first hurdle, a full metre lower than the last obstacle he jumped in public, Rough Quest

showed his foes how it should be done. He must have trailed the field by upwards of 30 lengths before halfway, but there was no denying the ease with which he closed on the leaders four fences from the finish. From that point, Casey could afford to relax.

"I could see he was going best," the trainer said. "Before the race I had visions of everything going wrong but he had a lovely gallop round. He should be in very good order for Kempton after that. The horse is hardly blowing, even though he had to race from the last." Indeed, without a sloppy jump at the final flight, Rough Quest would barely have come off the bridle.

Rough Quest makes light of a return to the smaller obstacles by winning the Lympne Novices' Hurdle at Folkestone yesterday

## Rough Quest makes smooth return

By JULIAN MUSCAT

**ROUGH QUEST** is the best advertisement the Grand National could wish for. It smacked of pathos to see him contest the Lympne Novices' Hurdle at Folkestone yesterday, but the ten-year-old radiated class as he strode to a resounding victory.

Over a trip two miles shorter than his Ainfield triumph, Rough Quest produced a performance beyond the range of the majority of Grand National winners. A combination of minor injuries, fast ground and recent abandonments has frustrated his trainer, Terry Casey, who anxiously sought an opportunity before the King George VI Chase on Boxing

Day. This contest was far from ideal but the horse took it in his stride, in the process serving notice that One Man will have to be at his very best in the Kempton feature. Ladbrokes responded by trimming Rough Quest to 5-1, from a point longer.

A marvelous cameo developed on the long run round to the final flight as Mick Fitzgerald, who sat motionless aboard Rough Quest, stalked Destin D'Estrael, the mount of David Bridgewater. It prompted uncomfortable memories for Bridgewater, who performed a similar chore on the Martin Pipe-trained Encore Un Peu, the runner-up at Aintree. Now, as then, the two jockeys exchanged words: "I won't repeat

David's exact comments," Fitzgerald later related, "but he said: 'That's the second time you've done it to me on the same horse'."

It is a long way from Becher's Brook to this run-of-the-mill venue. No racecourse distils the brave quite like Aintree, but Rough Quest must have sensed the unexpected from the paddock door of his untrained opponents. As Pet Lad dropped his rider and Over The Water threatened to start his race there and then, Rough Quest surveyed the scene with wry detachment. He had seen all this — and plenty more.

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showed his foes how it should be done. He must have trailed the field by upwards of 30 lengths before halfway, but there was no denying the ease with which he closed on the leaders four fences from the finish. From that point, Casey could afford to relax.

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trainer said. "Before the race I had visions of everything going wrong but he had a lovely gallop round. He should be in very good order for Kempton after that. The horse is hardly blowing, even though he had to race from the last." Indeed, without a sloppy jump at the final flight, Rough Quest would barely have come off the bridle.

## CATTERICK

**THUNDERER** 8.50 Amber Valley, 1.20 Sudden Spin, 1.50 Dorlin Castle, 2.20 Funetto, 2.50 The Toaster, 3.20 Maple Bay.

**GOING: GOOD**

**12.50 GLEBE NOVICES CHASE** (E3/043: 2m) (6 runners)

1. 512 MONTYMAN 25 (F) M Hammond 6-11.5 ... R Gamby

2. 251 FALLS TWINS 22 (C/G) G Moore 5-10.2 ... P Halligan

3. 742 AMBER VALLEY 8 (G) J Williams 5-10.2 ... P Halligan

4. 647 FERNICK'S BRONZE 12 (F) M Stretton 5-10.2 ... R Gaunt

5. 245 GLEBE NOVICES 14 (M) G Moore 5-10.2 ... R Gaunt

6. 402 GONE ASHORE 40 (M) Barnes 5-10.2 ... S Taylor (S)

7. 6 PP-B GONE ASHORE 40 (M) Barnes 5-10.2 ... S Taylor (S)

8. 11-10 MARYANN 3-1 Teal Faile, 7-2 Ambre Valley, 8-1 Fernick's Brother, 10-1 Friendly Knight, 25-1 Gone Ashore

9. 12-13 MARYANN 3-1 Teal Faile, 7-2 Ambre Valley, 8-1 Fernick's Brother, 10-1 Friendly Knight, 25-1 Gone Ashore

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## FOOTBALL

# Southampton seek 'feel-good' factor in Coca-Cola Cup

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

**SOUTHAMPTON** and West Ham United have failed to win any of their past six league matches and have drifted into the neither regions of the FA Carling Premiership. Tonight, in Coca-Cola Cup fourth round replays against Oxford United and Stockport County respectively, their discomfort could continue.

At least Southampton, eighth in the Premiership, have home advantage against Oxford, fifth in the Nationwide League first division. They should be reasonably fresh, too, having spent a week training in Israel trying to recharge distinctly low batteries.

Since the 6-3 victory against Manchester United in October, and a subsequent 1-1 draw with Sheffield Wednesday, Southampton have lost five successive league games, including the 7-1 humiliation away to Everton. Graeme Souness, the manager, feels that success this evening — and a place in the quarter-finals against West Ham or Stockport — could kick-start their season back to life.

"Our first-half display against Sheffield was outstanding," Denis Smith, the Oxford manager, said. "You can't get a lot better than that and, hopefully, we can



Le Tissier: fitness test

reproduce it against Southampton."

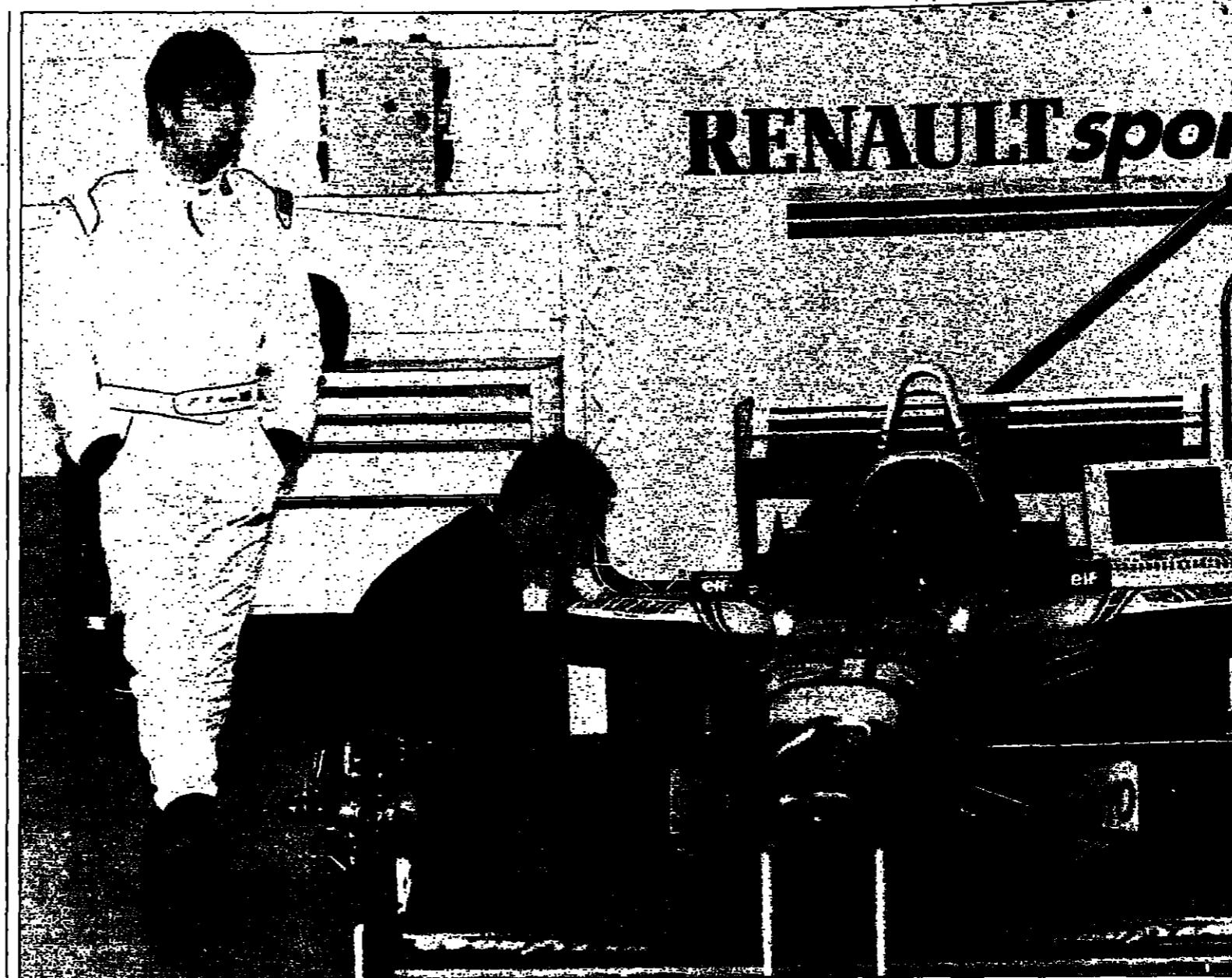
West Ham face a similarly awkward task against Stockport at Edgeley Park, the teams having drawn 1-1 at Upton Park in the initial meeting. "It's all about having the right approach," Frank Lampard, the West Ham assistant manager, said. "You know what you're in for before you even get there."

"Stockport will be geared up for a battle and we've got to cope with it. Skill-wise, we should be the better side, but we've got to match them for aggression and enthusiasm. If we get past them, then you can already smell Wembley."

West Ham's seemingly endless injury problems appear to be easing, with long-term absences, Steve Jones and Danny Williamson, nearing full fitness again. Hugo Porfirio, the Portuguese striker, is on the mend, too, and may return tonight.

Stockport, sixth in the second division, drew 0-0 against Peterborough United on Saturday, the first time they have failed to score in 24 matches. They have already beaten Premiership opponents in the Coca-Cola Cup this season, winning 1-0 against Blackburn Rovers in a third round tie at Ewood Park in October.

"Most people will expect us to get beaten, but you never know," Brett Angell, the Stockport striker, said. "We'll give it a go and maybe there'll be another shock result."



Heinz-Harald Frentzen and the Williams team conduct business as usual during testing at the Castellet circuit in southern France yesterday

## Mosley hints at cancellation of races

BY OLIVER HOLT

**MATTHEW MOSLEY**, the president of the FIA, the international motor sport federation, last night issued a veiled warning to the Italian motor racing authorities that both grands prix scheduled to take place in the country next season could be cancelled because of manslaughter charges arising from the death of Ayrton Senna at Imola in May 1994.

Frank Williams, the Williams team owner, and two members of the team are due to appear before a judge in Imola on February 20 next

year, but Mosley concentrated on the difficulties that may arise because the same charge has been levelled at an FIA official, Roland Brusniers, who was the race director at Formula One events that season.

Mosley insisted that neither the Formula One world championship nor the world rally championship would be affected by the legal action. "This is a uniquely Italian problem requiring a uniquely Italian solution," he said. However, he hinted that, if necessary, the San Marino and Italian grands prix, at Imola and

Monza respectively, would be cancelled if the position of the Italian legal system on accidental deaths during races was not clarified before the start of the new season, in Imola on March 9.

Mosley, who has an outstanding reputation as a barrister, said that "the best legal advice" given to the FIA was that the six people charged with manslaughter, including Patrick Head, the Williams technical director, and Adrian Newey, the team's chief designer, would be acquitted.

"More substantial is the difficulty the FIA now faces in

persuading international officials to carry out their functions at Italian events," Mosley said. "The presence of international officials is essential if a race or rally is to form part of an international championship. There may also be difficulty persuading competitors from outside Italy to participate."

Bernie Ecclestone, the president of the Formula One Constructors' Association, added his voice to the general indignation that has been prompted within the sport. "To accuse somebody of negligence is nonsense," he said. "If

Legal quirks, page 12

## Robson has high hopes for Kinder

**BRYAN ROBSON**, the manager of Middlesbrough, believes he may have made the first step towards arresting his team's slide down the FA Carling Premiership table. After an impressive week's training on Teesside, Robson is planning to include Flav Kinder, 27, three times the player of the year in Slovakia, in the Middlesbrough line-up in the reserve team fixture against Port Vale tonight.

"He's looked good on the ball in training, now we want to see him in a game," Robson said. Emerson will also appear in the match, in an attempt to improve his fitness, alongside Fabrino, playing his first match for the club.

Ruud Gullit, the Chelsea manager, is preparing a bid for Lou Cavaco, 22, the Stockport County striker. Gullit has had Cavaco watched three times since he forced his way into County's first team this season, although he has played only ten senior games.

## Burns demands end to Celtic disputes

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

**FACED** with the prospect of Celtic's pursuit of Rangers at the top of the Bell's Scottish League premier division collapsing long before the end of winter, Tommy Burns yesterday demanded an end to the "anarchy" that has enveloped Parkhead of late. As he did so, the Celtic manager pointedly complained that Pierre van Hooidonk is not helping matters at the club.

Van Hooidonk, who is wrangling over his contract and his long-term future at Celtic, developed a groin strain somewhere between being an unused substitute for Holland against Belgium in a World Cup qualifying match in Brussels on Saturday and Celtic's Barrowfield training ground yesterday morning and is rated an unlikely starter for the visit to Dunfermline tonight.

The last I saw him he had an ice-pack on his groin in the dressing-room," Burns said of his errant striker, adding that he was happy to postpone talks with the player until the end of the season so that the club can concentrate on its championship challenge.

"This season is not about

Pierre van Hooidonk, it is about Celtic Football Club trying to win a championship. Most certainly, it is about

competing for it until the last possible moment. We managed that last season and want to do the same this year — and go one better.

"There are no guarantees of that, but if all we want is to fight with each other, shouting for this player to go or that player to go, or the manager to go, it just causes anarchy. This is a vital time for everyone at Celtic. For myself, the rest of the management, the players, but, most importantly, for the supporters. We have a lot of games coming up and I need everyone to stick together."

Phil O'Donnell, the midfield player, is ready to return for Celtic after playing only two matches this season, against Kosice and Aberdeen, in early August. He then suffered a thigh problem, but has played three comeback matches with the reserves.

"We've taken our time bringing him back, but Phil will be involved and it is a huge boost," Burns said. "He can be such an influential player for us and we all look forward to him coming back."

Dundee United are to push ahead with work to increase the capacity of Tannadice from the present 12,608 limit to 14,300. United are to extend the existing South Stand at a cost of more than £1 million.

"Most certainly, it is about

## West Indies discover their fire

**WEST INDIES** revived their flagging tour in Australia with a seven-wicket victory over Pakistan in the World Series one-day international in Adelaide yesterday. Pilloried for their inept performances after losing nine matches, Courtney Walsh's touring team bounced back, bowling out the Pakistanis on this tour, was encouraged by the return to form of his strike bowler, Ambrose, who took two for 16, and his leading batsman, Lara, who hit the winning runs to finish 31 not out.

Ambrose was attempting to rediscover the fire that made him one of the world's most feared bowlers and Walsh rejected criticism that the Antiguan had looked disinterested and was not trying on tour. "He's been bowling well but without luck," Walsh said. "He's been giving it his all. Today's a happier day. We played well and deserved to win."

A career-best five for 37 from Jimmy Adams, the spin bowler, set West Indies on track to a victory made easier by the swashbuckling knock of

of Murray, playing as a makeshift opener.

Murray, together with Sherwin Campbell (24) hit 69 off 84 balls before Campbell was dismissed by Mushtaq Ahmed. Walsh, without a win from two Test and two one-day matches against Australia on this tour, was encouraged by the return to form of his strike bowler, Ambrose, who took two for 16, and his leading batsman, Lara, who hit the winning runs to finish 31 not out.

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of Murray, playing as a makeshift opener.

## Lacklustre Bowe puts Lewis bout in doubt

BY SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

**THE** proposed bout between Lennox Lewis and Riddick Bowe is in danger of being shelved indefinitely. While Lewis wants to meet Bowe, it is feared that Bowe's dismal performance and win on a disqualification over Andrew Golota last weekend, may have affected the pay-per-view appeal adversely.

As the bout depends for its money on pay-per-view, the match may no longer be financially viable. Panos Eliades, Lewis's chief negotiator, said yesterday: "Lennox wants to fight, if it is decent money. But if pay-per-view interest has been killed, then the fight's dead."

Lewis's plans are to lift the vacant World Boxing Council title against Oliver McCall in February, then defend it in

September against the winner of the bout between Evander Holyfield and Mike Tyson. Tyson and Holyfield meet in June. The Briton would consider a bout with Bowe after that.

Eliades said he did not expect McCall's arrest in Nashville for being drunk and disorderly on Sunday to affect his appearance at a press conference in New York to publicise the bout with Lewis. Eliades also did not think McCall's problems with the police would affect his world title bout with Lewis at the Hilton Las Vegas in any way.

In the wings is Henry Akinwande, of Britain, the World Boxing Organisation champion, who has also been waiting to meet Lewis should Lewis beat McCall.

## BOXING

## CRICKET

## ICE HOCKEY

**NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL)**: Tampa Bay 4 Montreux 2; New York Rangers v Hartford 2; New Jersey v St Louis 2.

**SPALDING CUP**: Cheshire 1; Kettering 1; Shropshire 1; Rushden & Diamonds 0.

**UNIBON LEAGUE**: President's Cup: Aston Villa 2, Liverpool 1; Aston Villa 2, Bristol City 1; Bristol City 2, Aston Villa 1.

**AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION**: First Division: Bristol City 2, Bristol Rovers 1; Bristol City 2, Bristol Rovers 1.

**SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE**: Premier division: Taunton 1; Torquay 1.

**SECOND DIVISION**: Macclesfield 2, Luton Town 1.

**STKING CUP**: Macclesfield 2, Luton Town 1.

**THIRD DIVISION**: Macclesfield 2, Luton Town 1.

**SCREENFIX DIRECT LEAGUE**: Premier division: Bradford 2, Carlisle 1.

**AWON INSURANCE COMBINATION**: First division: Plymouth Argyle 2, Plymouth 1; Plymouth 2, Plymouth Argyle 1.

**MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS**: O'Brien Middlewich 2, Middlewich 1; Oldham 2, Oldham 1.

**WINSTON LEAGUE**: First division: Macclesfield 2, Macclesfield 1.

**WINDSTORM KENT LEAGUE**: First division: Maidstone 2, Maidstone 1.

**SCREENFIX DIRECT LEAGUE**: Premier division: Bristol City 2, Bristol Rovers 1.

**MINERS BRISTOL LEAGUE**: Premier division: Bristol City 2, Bristol Rovers 1.

**FA YOUTH CUP**: Second round replay: GPR v Bristol Rovers.

**DR MARTENS EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE**: Premier division: Newport AFC v Chelmsford 1; Stevenage 1, Stevenage 0.

**UNIBON LEAGUE CUP**: Third round: Knowle v Great Harwood. Unibon 0, Great Harwood 0.

**LIBERTY LEAGUE OF WALES**: Caerphilly v Connah's Quay; Connah's Quay v Rhyl; Connah's Quay v Wrexham; Ebbw Vale v Pontypool.

**NULET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE**: West Bromwich 1, Norwich 0.

**WORLDS CUP**: Third round: Hatfield 2, Farnham 0.

**WORLDS CUP</b**

# Manchester plan built on City moving home

**M**anchester City will have to move its home games from Maine Road to the proposed 60,000-seat stadium in Eastlands if the new venue, using £60 million of lottery money, is to be built in Manchester.

As a total of £200 million was yesterday pledged towards three facilities, the largest payday from the Government for British sport, Wembley was confirmed as the English national stadium and will receive £120 million. A new swimming complex in Manchester will get £20 million.

The new Wembley, perhaps with a retractable roof, will cost at least £230 million and will be built after an architectural competition. It will be the

centre piece of the bid for the 2001 world athletics championships, 2006 football World Cup and possibly the Olympic Games in 2008.

Since Wembley Stadium over the past five years has staged annually on average 22 sports and seven entertainment events, it is already financially viable. Most England football internationals, FA Cup and league cup finals and leading rugby league fixtures will continue to be held there.

However, Sir Rodney Walker, the English Sports Council chairman, said yesterday that the money for the Manchester stadium would be "conditional on a long-term programme of use of that stadium". As the Football Association will only

**J**ohn Goodbody on the grounds that must be met by the multimillion pound development of English stadiums

stage in Manchester each year a maximum of one international and an FA Cup semi-final, the arena for 60,000 spectators will not be needed in the North unless City uses the ground regularly. Manchester already has a 55,000-seat stadium at Old Trafford.

Graham Stringer, the leader of Manchester City Council, emphasised yesterday that, when the original presentation was made for Eastlands to be the site of the national stadium, Francis Lee, the chairman of Manchester City, was part of the bidding team.

Although Maine Road once held 84,569, the largest crowd to watch an English club game outside Wembley, it now has a capacity of 32,344. Despite £19 million having been spent on rebuilding there since the Taylor Report, it lacks any unifying charm.

Manchester City would clearly consider moving back from Moss Side towards its original home in the east of the city. Much will depend on whether the supporters would welcome the move and also on how much it will cost City to rent the stadium.

The Eastlands site has al-

ready been cleared and, because a main venue will be needed for the 2002 Commonwealth Games, a stadium must be built there for the athletics and opening and closing ceremonies. However, unless Manchester City does give a commitment for use after 2002, there would just be an athletics stadium with a small permanent stand and a large amount of temporary seating for the duration of the Games.

The Manchester swimming complex is more feasible. It will be situated 1½ miles closer to the city centre, right in the

Road. The shortfall of about £10 million in the total cost of £230 million will come from private companies and, probably, from football.

Graham Kelly, the FA chief executive, confirmed: "In principle, football will be an investor, if, of course, we get the right deal. The FA, FA Premier League and Football League may all consider investments."

A retractable roof could, however, cause problems. Alan Coplin, the chief executive of Wembley plc, said: "As the Amsterdam Arena has shown, there are enormous difficulties in having playable grass pitches with a retractable roof, and for concerts, there are also problems with the sound. We are not convinced about it."

CLIVE BRUNSKILL / ALLSPORT

RUGBY UNION: WELSH OFFICIALS IN DISPUTE OVER PAYMENT OF MATCH FEES

## Referees threaten to strike

By DAVID HANDS  
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

WHILE the Rugby Football Union's dispute with the leading English clubs may be grinding towards a conclusion this week, the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) has given a twist to the problems of professionalism through their rejection of claims by Welsh referees which now threaten the entire club league programme on Saturday.

The Welsh Society of Rugby Union Referees (WSRUR) has declared its intention of striking this weekend unless the WRU reconsiders its claim to match fees backdated to August 31. The society wants this

scale applied to officials handling games in the top five divisions of the league, but the WRU is willing to go back only so far as December 1, and only for referees handling the top two divisions.

There doesn't seem enough time left to solve this problem," Hugh Banfield, the WSRUR secretary, said. Banfield has made himself available at any time for talks with the WRU, but has been told that no further meetings are planned. "At the moment I cannot see any other scenario for us to withdraw our services," he said.

If no agreement can be reached by today, many of Wales' poorer clubs may start

cancelling arrangements to travel this weekend, to save money. The wealthier ones, such as Cardiff, have already made inquiries among officials to try to ensure that their game with Swansea will go ahead since they do not want any interruption of their programme before their Heineken Cup semi-final in Brive on January 5.

No referee will be pressured into solving the strike call, if the society decides that that course of action is inevitable. "We are amateurs at the moment and we have told all our members that, if they wish to referee during the strike, they may do so," Les Peard, the WSRUR chairman, said.

The WRU is embattled over its £4 million sponsorship agreement with Reebok, the leisurewear company. Leading players, who have been told that they must wear the company's products when on national squad duty, claim that it has cut across existing individual agreements and Leigh Davies, the Cardiff centre, is threatened with a fine by the union for giving a television interview while inappropriately attired.

Swansea have been quick to act after seeing the performance at St Helen's on Saturday of Joos Joubert, the Natal centre, during the A international between Wales and South Africa. They spoke with Joubert before he returned home and will contact him in the new year to see if he is interested in joining Swansea.

Appeal lost, page 5

## Coventry dismiss City merger

COVENTRY, who are pushing for promotion from the second division of the Courage Clubs Championship, have turned down the proposal of a merger from Coventry City Football Club and will recommend to members tomorrow the acceptance of an investment from Leander, the property group (David Hands writes).

The rugby club's general committee was clearly disappointed with the quality of the offer from Coventry City, which involved the sale of the rugby ground at Condon Road and relocation to a site in Earlston, which the rugby club had previously explored and found inadequate. How-

ever, Bryan Richardson, the Coventry City chairman, expressed surprise that his club's offer had not received a fuller hearing.

Bedford have been linked with Rudolf Straeuli, the former South Africa flanker. Discussions have taken place, but it is feared that the pricing on Straeuli is too high. He was a member of South Africa's World Cup-winning squad and appeared as a replacement in the final but, at 33, he has only a limited future.

Richmond have had talks with Rolando Martin, the Argentina flanker, and Augustin Pichot, his colleague, the scrum half who

missed the recent tour because of injury. Meanwhile, Bristol and Leicester meet this evening in the first division match postponed from November 9, with Leicester, in fourth, bidding to make up ground on Bath, who are third, having played one more match. Rob Field keeps his place at lock for Leicester while Matt Poole recovers full fitness, but Martin Corry, the Bristol captain, remains doubtful because of the ankle injury that kept him out of action for England A last week.

Craig Barrow stands by to replace Corry for Bristol, who need a win to carry them clear of the bottom three teams.

**SHEEHAN on BRIDGE**

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

When the dummy has a long side suit but is short in trumps, it is frequently the right defence to force dummy to ruff. This is a hand from the English trials. Senior and I were West and East.

Dealer West      East-West game      IMPs

+1065      +AQ10765      +632      +5

+AJ10974      +10573

      ♠A      ♠VK843

      ♦KQ8...      ♦QJ42

      ♥J98432      ♥VJ2

      ♣5      ♣AK95

W      N      E      S

2 H      3 D      4 H      4 S

Pass      Pass      All Pass      Pass

Contract: Five Spades by South

Lead: Six of clubs

holding the queen and jack. So he played a club off dummy, and eventually went two down.

At the other table, the contract was Five Spades redoubled. West led his singleton club, and Graham Kirby, our team-mate, played on trumps immediately. East won and returned the two of clubs. West ruffed and played a diamond, interpreting East's two of clubs as a request for the lower-ranking suit. Now, Kirby was able to establish the diamonds and make the contract. A heart return by West after his club ruff defeats the contract by removing an entry to dummy.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

**WORLD MATCHING**

By Philip Howard

**CARRAGEEN**  
a. A Portuguese warship  
b. Edible seaweed  
c. Pub chaser

**PREE**  
a. To spy on  
b. A meadow  
c. A forestae

Answers on page 42

**KEENE on CHESS**

By RAYMOND KEENE  
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

**Kramnik's brilliance**

After his loss to Ivanchuk in the fifth round, Vladimir Kramnik struck back to win the best game of the Las Palmas tournament so far, against Viswanathan Anand in the sixth. After a complex tactical sequence in the opening, Kramnik traded in his queen for rook and bishop and a powerful passed pawn in the centre. Having successfully evaded Black's attempts to force a draw by perpetual check, White was in a position to force the promotion of his passed pawn. The game proved a pleasant contrast to the aura of caution and high mutual respect that has characterised many other games in this elite competition.

White: Vladimir Kramnik  
Black: Viswanathan Anand  
Las Palmas, December 1996

**English Opening**

1 Nf3 Nf6  
2 c4 Bb4  
3 g3 Bb7  
4 Bg2 e6  
5 0-0 Bg7  
6 Ne3 d5  
7 f4 Nc6  
8 cxd5 Nxd5  
9 e4 Nxe4  
10 bxc3 c5  
11 d4 Nd7  
12 Bf4 Nf6  
13 exd5 Nf5

**Diagram of final position**

a      b      c      d      e      f      g      h

1      2      3      4      5      6

Karpov      %      %      %      1½      3½

Ivanchuk      0      0      0      1      1½

Anand      1      1      0      0      0      3

Karpov      %      %      1      1      1      3

Kramnik      0      0      0      0      0      3

Tolopov      0½      0      0      0      0      3

Crossstable after six rounds at Las Palmas

1      2      3      4      5      6

Karpov      %      %      %      1½      3½

Ivanchuk      0      0      0      1      1½

Anand      1      1      0      0      0      3

Karpov      %      %      1      1      1      3

Kramnik      0      0      0      0      0      3

Tolopov      0½      0      0      0      0      3

In the above table, 1 represents a win, ½ a draw and 0 a loss

**WINNING MOVE**

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Perez - Lee, correspondence, 1995. White has sacrificed a bishop to weaken the black king. Can you see how he now made the most of his opponent's lack of king protection and his own active pieces?

Solution on page 42



Thomas Sykora, of Austria, won his second World Cup slalom race of the season at Madonna Di Campiglio, Italy, yesterday, but Alberto Tomba, in front of his home supporters, above, snatched the lime-light with a remarkable second place on his return from injury. Sykora, who has also had a second place and leads the slalom competition after three races, had an official combined time of 1min 37.90sec on the resort's Canalone Miramonti piste. Tomba, the world and former Olympic champion, who will be 30 tomorrow, clocked 1min 38.48sec and Sébastien Amiez, of France, who fell heavily in the warm-up, was close behind in 1min 38.52sec. It was always going to be Tomba's

day regardless of the outcome, but the result was much more than even the most faithful of his followers — who turned out in force with klaxons and banners — expected of him. "After the American races, when there were not so many people, it was a real boost to see so many here, even on a Tuesday," Tomba, who watched the first two slaloms, held in Park City and Breckenridge, on television, said. Racing for the first time since March, Tomba was eighth after the first leg — Sykora was third — but then turned up the power with the fastest second leg time of 1min 37.90sec. He caught a gate in the face on the first leg and was slightly troubled by bruising under his right eye.

### EQUESTRIANISM

## Whitaker leads the revamped parade

By JENNY MACARTHUR

JOHN WHITAKER, the highest ranked British rider, and his three Olympic team-mates, Nick Skelton, Geoff Billington and Michael Whitaker, head the home entry for the 25th Olympia International Show Jumping Championships, which begin today in The Grand Hall, Olympia.

The show, the brainchild of the late Raymond Brooks-Ward, is set for a bumper week. Sponsorship has doubled; the prize-money has been increased to £20,000; the BBC, which ended its nightly broadcast two years ago, is returning to cover the Volvo World Cup qualifier on Saturday and six out of the ten performances are already sold out. In the inaugural year Brooks-Ward went out into Kensington High Street to give away tickets.

The show's success is based on a mix of serious showjumping and fun events. While Lorenzo, the flying Frenchman, and the Shetland Pony grand national help to take care of the latter, the international showjumpers taking part include Germany's two Olympic team gold medal-winners, Ludger Beerbaum, winner of the Olympia World Cup qualifier last year, and Franks Sloothaak, the world champion.

The Ireland entry includes Peter Charles, the European champion. Brazil are sending Rodrigo Pessoa, the Olympic team bronze medal-winning rider whose father, Nelson, won the first Olympia Puissance in 1972. Jordan have their first representative at the

### EXCLUSIVE OFFER THE TIMES

## Save £2 on China exhibition tickets

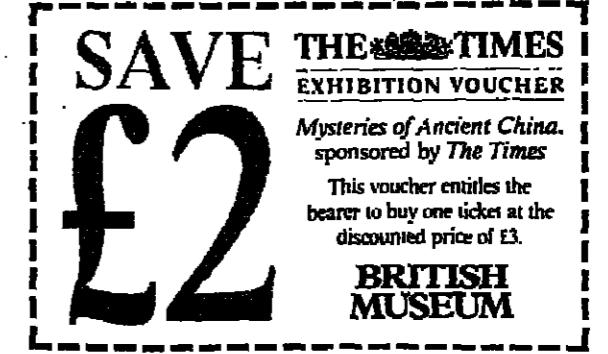


*The Times*, in association with the British Museum, gives you the opportunity to get a discount off the price of tickets for the China exhibition. Instead of the full price of £15, *The Times* readers can buy tickets for £13 each.

*The Mystery of Ancient China* is the first major Chinese exhibition in London for 20 years. It includes spectacular new discoveries from China's recently excavated royal tombs and sacrificial pits.

All you have to do is present the voucher below at the exhibition ticket kiosk at the British Museum. A timed ticketing system is in operation. (For further information call the British Museum on 0171-323 8782.)

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BRITISH MUSEUM

CHANGING TIMES

# Be a good sport and laugh with the best

SIMON BARNES



Midweek View

**'Such defeats  
are treats  
for us all'**

With the year on its last knockings and the new year already filled with talk about the televising of *A Dance to the Music of Time*, this might be the last moment for years in which it is intellectually respectable to quote Anthony Powell.

Which brings us to Widmerpool's overcoat. As Powell holds us this early clue about the extraordinary nature of his man, he explains that this singular and inappropriate garment was "recognised almost immediately as a traditionally ludicrous aspect of everyday life". A perfect phrase.

There are faint echoes of pantomime, of the commedia dell'arte behind Powell's *Dance*, and there are echoes of pantomime everywhere in sport. Sport fulfills our need for triumph and disaster, but it cannot do so without also becoming a traditionally ludicrous aspect of everyday life.

It is a poor person that does not enjoy the triumphs and disasters of the sporting round; in the same way, it is perhaps a still more impoverished soul that fails to take pleasure in the flagrantly preposterous nature of sport.

Take the England cricket team. It has become one of those staples of

English humour, as predictable a focus for stock humour as the mother-in-law jokes of the pantomime comic. After all, the England team members are the best cricketers that England possesses.

Oh no they're not! Oh yes they are! And that last response, the truth, is the best and cruellest punch line. Amusing enough at home, abroad the England cricket team turns into the funniest show in sport, the humour more acute for the fact that the participants seem unaware of it.

Look behind you, here come Mashonaland! Such jokes as England's defeat by this mighty cricketing

entity are surely the lifeblood of sport. We in newspapers do our best to add to the gaiety by listing "England's worst ten performances overseas"; yes, remember defeat by Holland? Such moments are treats for us all and need to be recalled every once in a while, for the simple pleasure of it. Old jokes are, after all, the best jokes.

Rugby union has always been an area rich in unconscious humour. The political wranglings of the past year have been consistently hilarious: how splendid of the chaps to cap it all with a memorable match against Argentina. Which of us did not feel a

frisson of disappointment when England spoilt the last act of the pantomime — just — winning?

Football is not a sport to spare us low comedy. The tale of Emerson and his wife's extraordinary preference for the Copacabana over Teesside has provided much pleasure. Indeed, the whole Middlesbrough saga has been full of delights.

Wimbledon, of course, have long been a traditionally ludicrous aspect of football and it is a part they play for all they are worth. Their present dizzy ranking in the Premiership is

hilarious, but, naturally, we need Vinnie Jones to paint the lily.

The old pantomime villain of sport has been busy hammering up his own role. His latest exploit has been to insult his own team-mates, a nice move when team spirit and Jones's leadership are the best things Wimbledon have going for them.

The thing about pantomime is that it can change in a moment from ludicrous menace to abject sentimentality. So now we have Jones back in his heart-of-gold diamond geezer mode, asking forgiveness from everyone in sight. Yes, Vinnie is a reformed character. Again.

There is also a tale doing the rounds about the player who went to Southampton because the manager, Graeme Souness, was swayed by a telephoned recommendation from George Weah, the AC Milan megastar, no less.

All Dia got as a sub (for Matthew Le Tissier, no less), but has since been accused of being an imposter, along with the telephoning pseudo-Weah. Souness wears his custard pie manfully while Dia is protesting his innocence — and hoping for a trial with Carlisle United.

There is scarcely an aspect of sport

that is untouched by ludicrousness. This is true even of sport's grimmest moments. The death of Ayrton Senna was indeed a dreadful thing but sport, even at its most serious, cannot altogether dispense with its burden of preposterousness.

So the Italian legal system has landed with all its pomp on the sport of motor racing. The terrible event of the crash is now set about with a kind of opera buffa, a black farce of lawyers and sporting millionaires which is the more painfully absurd for the black horror that inspired it. Perhaps, this being the pantomime season, this column should make a joke.

What is black and brown and looks good on a lawyer? A Dobermann.

Ho, ho. Sport is glorious, heart-lifting, ennobling, and patently absurd. If it were not absurd, we would not bother with it. Sport enriches us, not in spite of but because of its utter triviality. Sport is preposterous or it is nothing.

Those who cannot see the glory and the delight of sport are Philistines. But those that cannot delight in sport as a traditionally ludicrous aspect of everyday life are worse. They lack humour and to lack humour is to lack humanity.

Toasting the Lasses. Radio 2, 9.00pm.  
Utterly charming, Gill Bowman's one-woman show featuring the love songs of Robbie Burns is, at 30 minutes, far, far too short and her audience far, far too unresponsive. Could it be possible, I asked myself, that they had taken a vow of silence? Bowman imagines a dinner party that an Edinburgh merchant's wife is giving in Burns's honour. While she awaits his arrival one night in 1796, as Burns scholars will not need reminding, the date is a fatal one — she chats and sings her way through an account of the poet's amorous adventures with a small guitar. This alone would explain why *Auld Acquaintance* was such a hit at the 1994 Edinburgh Festival.

*Candy is Dandy*. Radio 4, 7.20pm.

"But liquor is quicker", that is how Ogden Nash completes the line in the title of Russell Davies's feature about the great American rhymester. Would anyone else have dared rhyme circle with rhymester? Or shrewdly state such a universal truth as "The song of canaries never varies"? And what about the question mark of us will have considered at some time in our lives yet left it to Nash to enunciate: "God in his wisdom made the fly and then forgot to tell us why"? As for epigrams, would not even Oscar Wilde have been proud to have penned this one: "Progress is great — but it's gone on too long"?

Peter Davalle

## RADIO 1

7.00am Chris Evans 6.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa 'Aneen' 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier, includes the Chorus and 5.00 Gyles Brandreth 6.00 Evelyn Sebastian, with Whalley and Steve Lamucco 9.00 2. Magazine, with news features and interviews 10.00 Mark Radcliffe, live from Manchester 12.00 Clare Sturgess, includes 12.15am The Net 2.00 Gav Wilson

## RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 8.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.00 David Dimbleby 3.00 CBBC 4.00 John Durnin 5.00 Jim Lloyd, with Folk on 2.00 The Inner Temple 6.30 Diances. Comedy in song with Richard Digance 6.45 5.00 Toasting the Lasses. See Choice 8.30 Carlo Curley, Pavone and the Organ (174) 10.30 The Jacksons 12.00am Steve Madden 3.00 Alex Carter

## RADIO 3

6.00am Morning Reports, incl at 5.45 Wake Up to Monday 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 6.30 The Magazine, with Diana Mordas 12.00 Midday with Mel, incl at 12.35pm Moneycheck 2.00 Rugs on Five 4.00 Nationalews 7.00 News Extra, incl at 7.20 Sports Bulletin 7.35 Trevor Brooking's Football Night, Shield and League 8.00 Manchester United 8.30 The Baker Line 11.00 Nine Extra, with Valerie Sanderson includes at 11.15 The Financial World Tonight 12.05am After Hours 2.05 Up All Night

## RADIO 4

6.00am Mark Griffiths 6.00 Mike Read 9.00 Harry Kelly 10.00 Susanna Simon 2.00pm Concerto Paparini (Molin Concordia No 2 in B minor, Op 7) 3.00 James Crichton 6.00 Newsnight 6.30 Sonatas, Telemann (Recorder Sonata in D minor) 7.00 Gardening Forum (n 8.00 Concerto Grosso (Ruggieri and Lucinda) 8.30 Concerto Sinfonia (Mark 12) Mozart (Molin Concerto No 3 in D minor, Op 73) 10.00 Michael Mappin 1.00am Mel Cooper

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10.00 Musical Encounters, includes Handel (Minuet, Water Music); Haydn (Sing und Gott); Mozart (Oboe Quartet in F, K370); Bruckner (Mass in G minor); Von Einem (String Quartet No 1); Elgar (Overture A Shropshire Lad); Warlock (I Saw a Fair Maiden);

12.00 Composers of the Week: Schubert, Chausson and Henri Duparc

1.00am News, Birmingham Lunchtime Concert, Paul Whelan, baritone, Julius Drake piano, Revel (Cinq Mélodies); Duparc (Préydile; La Mano de Rosendome); Chanson Triste; La Vie Antérieure; La Vague et la Cioche); Elena Pisova (No, Non a Migraine); Revel (Don Quichotte in D major);

2.00 Michael Chochani, with Susan Sharpe, includes Dohnanyi (Passacaglia); Elgar (Violin Sonata in E minor, Op 82); Hans (Symphony No 6)

## RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW) 6.00 News Bulletin 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today 6.58 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Midweek (FM), includes Times comment (Dobry) 10.00 Test Match Special: Zimbabwe v England (LW), Coverage from Suwalwayo 10.00 News, A Good Read (FM), A regular series with Mark Lawson

10.10 Daily Service (LW) 10.15 On This Day (LW) 10.30 Women's Hour (FM) 11.00 Weather by Jenny Murray, Weather Warning 12.00pm Lambchop — parson's verson

10.30 Test Match Special (LW) 11.30 Gardeners' Question Time (FM) 12.00 News: The Afternoon Shift, with Linda Ridder (FM) 12.25pm King Street Junior (FM), with Jim Eldridge, Starling Karl Howman and James Grotz (4/6) 12.55 Weather

1.00 The World at One, with Nick Hindley 1.07 Test Match Special (LW) 1.15 Weather (FM) (r) 1.35 Shopping

2.00 News: Victoria Station II (FM) by Steve Chambers, with Sean Baker, Christopher Green and Muriel (4/6) 2.45 Treasure Island (FM), Presented by Michael Rosen. Last in the series

3.00 News: The Afternoon Shift, with Diane Bretherton (FM) 3.45 Weather 4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope, Paul Gambaccini sees Danny DeVito's version of the Road to Perdition

4.45 Short Story, A House for Christmas, by Catherine

11.45 The Joy of Yiddish (FM) (r) 11.50 Today In Parliament (LW) 12.00 News incl 12.27am approx Weather

12.30 Late Book: Midnight Tales (3/5) (r) 12.45 Shopping 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE, RADIO 1, FM 97.6-98.8, RADIO 2, FM 88.0-92.3, RADIO 3, FM 88.2-92.4, RADIO 4, FM 92.4-94.8, LW 198, MW 120, FM 5 LIVE, MW 563, 909, WORLD SERVICE, MW 645; LW 105.4; MW 1197, 1215, CLASSIC FM, FM 100-102, VIRGIN RADIO, MW 1023, 1069, TELEVISION AND RADIO Ratings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McElwaine

# SILENT NIGHT, BURNS'S NIGHT

Toasting the Lasses. Radio 2, 9.00pm.

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12.00 Composers of the Week: Food as Medicine, with Susie Orbach, Fay Weldon and Nicola Barker

1.00 Voices, Ian Burridge introduces a recital of Sibelius songs given last October at the Wigmore Hall, London, by Finnish baritone Jorma Hynrinen, pianist like Peterson, including First Kiss; The Tryst; Theodore; Astray; Driftwood; To Evening Was it a Dream?

10.45 Night Composers of the Week: Sherman (r) 12.30am Jazz Notes, Robert Altman talks about his new film Kansas City, and Steve Voice talks to Oscar Peterson 1.00 Through the Night

## RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW) 6.00 News Bulletin 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today 6.58 Weather</

# Technical knockout lacked the ring of truth

At least giving Nick Berry a George Clooney haircut was a good idea. Just a pity they didn't give him an *ER* script to go with his fashionable flat-top. Instead, Berry had to go 12 rounds with the charmless *Respect* (ITV) from Richard La Planie, who seems to have been watching too many Rocky videos.

The result? Well, straight round to the Broadcasting Standards people for starters. A scene that involved a head-butt, a cosh and a full-bloodied kick to the groin had no place in a drama that started before the 9 o'clock watershed. Quite pointlessly, the producers have played straight into Namby Bottomley's hands.

The scene also had no place in a script that sought to be taken seriously. Were we really supposed to believe that having just been beaten up, a known drug dealer would be straight round to the police shouting "it was him, it was that

nasty Bobby Carr". Apparently we were. Carr (Berry) was duly taken away, sentenced to 100 hours community service in an East End boxing gym and do you know? He never heard from that nasty, armed and dangerous drug dealer again. Just like real life, then.

*Watching Respect* was like signing up for serial disappointment. It had a strong cast, it looked great and Berry's new haircut had opened up a whole range of dramatic possibilities; and yet time and again it all came to a halt as the script had a bit of a rethink or lobbed in superfluous sentiment.

Every now and then a new character would appear — to no apparent purpose. Suddenly, Carr had a brother. Suddenly, the brother had a girlfriend. Suddenly, they were having to listen to dialogue such as: "You look like you've seen a ghost?" "I've only heard Trevor Nyce planning a ram raid."

Then there was the problem of

keeping up with the characters themselves. One minute Danny Phillips (Lee MacDonald) was a future champion, the next he was taking drugs and robbing building societies, the next he was back in the ring again. It was the same with Carr's predictably estranged wife, Rosie (Jayne Ashby), who attacked her predictably misunderstood husband first for taking another fight and then for planning to take a dive in the water. Just like real life, then.

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## REVIEW



Matthew Bond

damaging effect. One minute it was a particular inscription that would confirm that the huge pieces of stone littering the bottom of Alexandria harbour were the remains of the lighthouse of Pharos, the next it was two giant statues of Mr and Mrs Prokerty II. It didn't matter, because this was a quite fascinating story.

Much of the fascination stemmed from simple jaw-drop-

ping disbelief that so much ancient history could have been lying, undisturbed, in 25 feet of water for so long. As the underwater camera moved among the divers, it picked out a sphinx here, a colossus there and an obelisk all over the place. Spellbinding.

Believing that what we were being shown was the remains of the lighthouse rather than some flooded architectural salvage yard was still a big step, especially after it became clear that some of the stonework was a thousand years old. Only here, I suspect, could the deciphering of 3,000-year-old hieroglyphics spell disappointment. R-A-M... Rameses II.

But the French archaeologists were sure (lighthouses, after all, spell headlines and headlines spell more research funds) and called upon their British colleague, Horn or Frost, to confirm their findings. For having gently led us to believe

that this was the first time the five-acre site had been surveyed, the film's makers (French, of course) reluctantly admitted that it had been done before — 30 years ago, by Frost and an Egyptian diver. They had even raised a statue — Mrs Ptolemy as it turned out. Now came the opportunity to see the husband's statue, *in situ* on the seabed.

Frost may be 75 but she was in her wet-suit and underwater before you could say sphinx. In a film short of hard archaeological evidence, this was one of many magical moments that made up for it.

There will be those who saw Network First's *Conspicuous Consumption* (ITV) as a hachette job, an own goal scored by the gullible management of Harvey Nichols, the department store. But not I.

Shopping is a fundamentally silly occupation and shopping in

the sort of fashionable emporium that is Harvey Nichols, "where luxuries become essentials", doubly, nay trebly, so. But silly as it is, it is also — the weeks before Christmas notwithstanding — a hugely enjoyable occupation and on no account to be taken seriously.

Put something on and friends really do say: "it's horrible... no, horrible is too strong a word". Browse through a rail and you do find yourself saying "that's the exact T-shirt I need for the summer, except I want it in white". True, I have never found myself saying: "You've got to stick with the mood, it's got to be mood... you've got the wrong mood." but that's because I don't wear tights and I'm not American.

I liked Nick Lord's film but I'd have liked it even more if he'd had a bit more material to fill his allotted hour. One thing they do teach you at Harvey Nichols — never skip.

**BBC2**

6.00am BUSINESS BREAKFAST (30298)  
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (9495)  
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (T) (1760418)  
9.20 STYLE CHALLENGE (464347)  
9.45 KILROY (6479586)  
10.30 CAN'T COOK, WON'T COOK with Anthea Hamilton (30012)

11.00 NEWS and weather (312470)  
11.05 THE REALLY USEFUL SHOW Consumer advice (5163383)

11.45 MILLIES'S PEOPLE (5337514)

12.00 NEWS (T) and weather (4870447)

12.05pm POLICE RESCUE (T) (9038224)

12.55 THE WEATHER SHOW (3527505)

1.00 NEWS (T) and weather (64854)

1.30 REGIONAL NEWS (T) (3687034)

1.40 NEIGHBOURS (T) (2613470) 2.00 Call My Bluff (8857) 2.30 A Week in the Country (576) 3.00 Incognito (1982)

3.30 ANTS IN YOUR PANTS (574418) 3.50 Chucklevision (574654) 4.10 Get Your Own Back (T) (1601692) 4.35 The Queen's Nose (T) (7479505) 5.00 Newsround (T) (505166) 5.10 Blue Peter includes an interview with Danny DeVito (T) (8357673)

5.35 NEIGHBOURS (T) (207050)

6.00 NEWS (T) and weather (505)

6.30 REGIONAL NEWS (857)

7.00 SMALL TALK Last in series (T) (3673)

7.30 HERE AND NOW Sue Lawley and the team present more investigations and profiles of people making the news. Last in series (T) (741)

8.00 HOW DO THEY DO THAT? In the last of the series Eamonn Holmes and Esther McVey reveal some of the surprising objects that have been used to create sound effects for BBC programmes (T) (540895)

8.50 POINTS OF VIEW (T) (508418)

9.00 NEWS (T), regional-news and weather (2168)

9.30 THE X FILES: Jose Chung's from Outer Space Scott Reeder's story about a teenage girl who claims to have had an encounter with aliens to a famous author who is researching a book about the alleged Incident in Klass County, Washington (T) (202771) WALES Political Broadcast: Pledi Cyrra 9.35 The X Files 10.20 Kane's Wales 10.50 Harry Enfield and Chums 11.20 Birth of Honor 12.10em Frankenstein — The True Story 1.45 FILM: Countess Dracula 3.20 News

10.15 HARRY ENFIELD AND CHUMS Last in series (T) (423252)

10.45 THE NIGHTMARE: THE BIRTH OF HORROR — Dracula Christopher Frayling explores the background to Bram Stoker's creation (T) (646418)

11.35 FRANKENSTEIN — THE TRUE STORY Concluding the two-part adaptation of Mary Shelley's classic tale starring James Mason (T) (646470)

1.10pm FILM: Countess Dracula (1970) starring Ingrid Pitt, Nigel Green and Peter Jeffrey. Hammer horror yarn about an ageing Hungarian countess who betches in virgins' blood to preserve her beauty. Directed by Peter Sasdy (7387971)

2.40 WEATHER (889671)

**VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes**  
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder to record them. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. Videoplus+ ("+"), Pluscode ("") and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

6.00pm OPEN UNIVERSITY: Flight Simulators and Robots (7533202) 6.25 Designer Rides (755437) 6.50 Deadly Quasars (889349) 7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (288758) 7.30 The Legend of Prince Valiant (708740) 7.50 It'll Never Work (571958) 8.15 Fiddley Foodie Bird (5454673) 8.25 Christopher Crocodile (5449525) 8.35 The Record (884592) 9.00 The Complete Guide to the 20th Century (150498) 9.10 The Village of Jax (253358) 10.00 Playdays (221343) 10.25 The Champions (8040012) 11.15 The Phil Silvers Show (1272360) 11.40 Flash Gordon's Trip to Mars (2082447) 12.00 Operation Survival (22234) 12.30 Working Lunch (60505) 1.00 Christopher Crocodile (8204944) 1.05 Fiddley Foodie Bird (8651805) 1.15 Shambolic tales with Margaret Lockwood and James Mason (2313625) 2.00 News (7309470) 2.05 Westminster (2250708) 3.20 News (871976) 4.00 Today's the Day (476) 4.30 Ready, Set, Cook (654) 5.00 The Opry-Wire Show (486673) 5.40 Mary Berry (6290011) 5.50 Turning Points (96198) WALES: Paled Cymru Broadcast

6.00pm THIRK: THE NEXT GENERATION (T) (949493)

6.45 BOLLYWOOD OR BUST! The final of the quiz on Bombay's film industry (787418)

7.30 FROM THE EDGE (T) (383)

8.00 TRUST ME, I'M A DOCTOR Should we add folic acid or vitamin B to flour to prevent heart disease and stroke? Last in series (T) (8073)

8.30 OPEN RHODES Gary gives a master-class to four young RAF cooks (T) (9470)

9.00 MODERN TIMES: The Flickering Flame Ken Loach champions the cause of the dismissed Liverpool dockers (T) (71857)

9.30 ENTERPRISE CULTURE REVISITED: Making a Million In the last of three programmes about entrepreneurs we catch up with David McCann and David Atkinson to see how their businesses are faring in the 1990s (T) (594383)

10.30 NEWSNIGHT (T) (388079)

11.15 LOOKING FOR TAT (2676168)

11.25 HIS FATHER'S SONG (292926)

11.50 THE HISTORY MAN (82078)

12.00 THE MIDNIGHT HOUR (75738)

12.30pm THE LEARNING ZONE Open University: Powers of the Mind (90505) 1.30 Glastonbury (T) (214154) 1.45 The Big Picture (289347) 1.50 The Great British Book of Stories (289348) 1.55 The Big Picture (289349) 1.56 The Big Picture (289350) 1.57 The Big Picture (289351) 1.58 The Big Picture (289352) 1.59 The Big Picture (289353) 1.59 The Big Picture (289354) 1.59 The Big Picture (289355) 1.59 The Big Picture (289356) 1.59 The Big Picture (289357) 1.59 The Big Picture (289358) 1.59 The Big Picture (289359) 1.59 The Big Picture (289360) 1.59 The Big Picture (289361) 1.59 The Big Picture (289362) 1.59 The Big Picture (289363) 1.59 The Big Picture (289364) 1.59 The Big Picture (289365) 1.59 The Big Picture (289366) 1.59 The Big Picture (289367) 1.59 The Big Picture (289368) 1.59 The Big Picture (289369) 1.59 The Big Picture (289370) 1.59 The Big Picture (289371) 1.59 The Big Picture (289372) 1.59 The Big Picture (289373) 1.59 The Big Picture (289374) 1.59 The Big Picture (289375) 1.59 The Big Picture (289376) 1.59 The Big Picture (289377) 1.59 The Big Picture (289378) 1.59 The Big Picture (289379) 1.59 The Big Picture (289380) 1.59 The Big Picture (289381) 1.59 The Big Picture (289382) 1.59 The Big Picture (289383) 1.59 The Big Picture (289384) 1.59 The Big Picture (289385) 1.59 The Big Picture (289386) 1.59 The Big Picture (289387) 1.59 The Big Picture (289388) 1.59 The Big Picture (289389) 1.59 The Big Picture (289390) 1.59 The Big Picture (289391) 1.59 The Big Picture (289392) 1.59 The Big Picture (289393) 1.59 The Big Picture (289394) 1.59 The Big Picture (289395) 1.59 The Big Picture (289396) 1.59 The Big Picture (289397) 1.59 The Big Picture (289398) 1.59 The Big Picture (289399) 1.59 The Big Picture (289400) 1.59 The Big Picture (289401) 1.59 The Big Picture (289402) 1.59 The Big Picture (289403) 1.59 The Big Picture (289404) 1.59 The Big Picture (289405) 1.59 The Big Picture (289406) 1.59 The Big Picture (289407) 1.59 The Big Picture (289408) 1.59 The Big Picture (289409) 1.59 The Big Picture (289410) 1.59 The Big Picture (289411) 1.59 The Big Picture (289412) 1.59 The Big Picture (289413) 1.59 The Big Picture (289414) 1.59 The Big Picture (289415) 1.59 The Big Picture (289416) 1.59 The Big Picture (289417) 1.59 The Big Picture (289418) 1.59 The Big Picture (289419) 1.59 The Big Picture (289420) 1.59 The Big Picture (289421) 1.59 The Big Picture (289422) 1.59 The Big Picture (289423) 1.59 The Big Picture (289424) 1.59 The Big Picture (289425) 1.59 The Big Picture (289426) 1.59 The Big Picture (289427) 1.59 The Big Picture (289428) 1.59 The Big Picture (289429) 1.59 The Big Picture (289430) 1.59 The Big Picture (289431) 1.59 The Big Picture (289432) 1.59 The Big Picture (289433) 1.59 The Big Picture (289434) 1.59 The Big Picture (289435) 1.59 The Big Picture (289436) 1.59 The Big Picture (289437) 1.59 The Big Picture (289438) 1.59 The Big Picture (289439) 1.59 The Big Picture (289440) 1.59 The Big Picture (289441) 1.59 The Big Picture (289442) 1.59 The Big Picture (289443) 1.59 The Big Picture (289444) 1.59 The Big Picture (289445) 1.59 The Big Picture (289446) 1.59 The Big Picture (289447) 1.59 The Big Picture (289448) 1.59 The Big Picture (289449) 1.59 The Big Picture (289450) 1.59 The Big Picture (289451) 1.59 The Big Picture (289452) 1.59 The Big Picture (289453) 1.59 The Big Picture (289454) 1.59 The Big Picture (289455) 1.59 The Big Picture (289456) 1.59 The Big Picture (289457) 1.59 The Big Picture (289458) 1.59 The Big Picture (289459) 1.59 The Big Picture (289460) 1.59 The Big Picture (289461) 1.59 The Big Picture (289462) 1.59 The Big Picture (289463) 1.59 The Big Picture (289464) 1.59 The Big Picture (289465) 1.59 The Big Picture (289466) 1.59 The Big Picture (289467) 1.59 The Big Picture (289468) 1.59 The Big Picture (289469) 1.59 The Big Picture (289470) 1.59 The Big Picture (289471) 1.59 The Big Picture (289472) 1.59 The Big Picture (289473) 1.59 The Big Picture (289474) 1.59 The Big Picture (289475) 1.59 The Big Picture (289476) 1.59 The Big Picture (289477) 1.59 The Big Picture (289478) 1.59 The Big Picture (289479) 1.59 The Big Picture (289480) 1.59 The Big Picture (289481) 1.59 The Big Picture (289482) 1.59 The Big Picture (28



## NATIONAL STADIUM 41

Wembley wins on  
British sport's  
£200m payout

# SPORT

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 18 1996

Zimbabwe buoyed by England's unimpressive form on eve of inaugural match

## Atherton facing test of leadership

FROM SIMON WILDE  
IN BULAWAYO

**MICHAEL ATHERTON** sat in the evening sun yesterday, under the *shamiana* that will act as the players' pavilion at Queens Club during the inaugural Test match between England and Zimbabwe that starts here today. Perched on top of the terracing cut out of the turf at this picturesque, tree-lined ground, he looked like a pontiff, which was an irony in view of the fact that he is facing one of the sternest tests of his three-year tenure as the England cricket captain.

By leading his country for the 36th successive time today, Atherton will break the England Test record he shares with Peter May, but defeat by the newest and weakest Test nation in the world might jeopardise his chances of remaining in power long

## TEAMS

**ZIMBABWE:** A D R Campbell (captain), G W Flower, S V Carlisle, A C Walker, D L Houghton, A Flower, G J Whittall, P A Stretton, H H Streak, E A Brindley, H K Olonga.  
**ENGLAND:** M A Atherton (captain), N V Kneale, A J Stewart, N Hussain, G P Thorpe, J P Crampton, R D B Croft, D Gough, A D MacLaren, A T Caddick or C E W Silverwood, P C H Turlan.  
Umpires: R S Dunn (New Zealand) and I D Robinson (Zimbabwe)  
Match referee: Hanuman Singh (India)

enough to fulfil his ambition of having another crack at the Australians next summer.

He refused to accept that this match has more significance than any other Test, but acknowledged equally that it had special importance to the Zimbabwean players, who say they are keener to beat England than any other side. "That is the case the world over," Atherton said. "It is imperialism kicking us in the teeth."

Defeat by a country with such a small nucleus of players and with only one win in 20 Test matches ought to be out of the question, but it no longer is. Losses in the past three weeks to a President's XI, Mashonaland and, in the first one-day international against Zimbabwe, have changed that and altered the morale of both camps.

Of the team that Zimbabwe



David Lloyd, the England coach, watches as Ian Botham, who is assisting the bowlers, makes a point to the players during net practice at Queens Club yesterday

named yesterday, only Henry Olonga, the fastest bowler on either side, has not played a part in one of the touring side's defeats. Both camps also appear to accept that, given five fine days, there will be a result here.

Britain's imperialist past may have something to do with the fact that the Zimbabweans are so "up for it", but equally potent is the perception that this England team has displayed an arro-

gant disregard for the task it faced here.

The decision not to bring in a replacement for Dominic Cork, England's leading strike bowler, when he withdrew shortly before the tour began, hinted at complacency, and David Houghton, the Zimbabwean player-coach, has complained that England have not given enough credit to his bowlers when they have talked about their failure to make big scores. That said,

relations between the sides are cordial.

England's problems are not small and they might do themselves a favour by acknowledging that their opponents are a good side who are, in the words of Houghton, "playing the best cricket we have played for many years".

One problem not taxing the England management greatly is the selection for the game. Having failed to replace Cork, having taken the decision at

an early stage of the tour that Russell, the wicketkeeper, would not feature in the Test side, and then having seen Iran break down, they are choosing from only 12 men, though the party will be supplemented by Craig White next week.

It was England's thinking yesterday that the last place in the side, that of third seamer, was a choice between Caddick and Silverwood, who has yet to play in a Test and has 30 one-day internationals.

England are therefore set to play two spinners, Tufnell and Croft, an option not being pursued by Zimbabwe, who took the early decision yesterday to omit Andrew Whittall, the off spinner, from their original party of 12.

The square at Queens Club is reckoned to be the fastest and bounciest in the country, and though that may not be saying much, it should help the faster bowlers early in the day. Alistair Campbell, the Zimbabwe captain, expected to put England in if he won the toss.

Were he to do so, it would be imperative that England survived the first hour in some sort of shape, rather than lose three wickets as they did twice during the defeat by Mashonaland. Atherton believes that, if they can do so and go on to build a total in excess of 400, they can then dictate the game. For that to happen, though, the top six must perform well, which probably means Atherton and

Thorpe rediscovering their form.

White was officially summoned yesterday to join the party after the hospital tests on Iran's back on Monday revealed a "hot spot" of inflammation. Iran received an injection that will prevent him from bowling for three days, but the management, now wants to monitor his progress for at least a week before making a decision on whether he should return home.

White is holidaying in Australia after the end of the England A-team tour there and will join the senior team in Harare next Monday, three days before the start of the second Test.

## Mansell's rejection of Jordan flags end of the road

BY OLIVER HOWE

HE STOPPED short of saying that he had retired but Nigel Mansell effectively brought down the curtain on his illustrious Formula One career yesterday. After one last taste of life close to the edge at a test in Barcelona last week, he telephoned Eddie Jordan yesterday morning to turn down the opportunity to compete in a Jordan-Peugeot next season. Mansell had come away from the Spanish test brimming with enthusiasm and delighted to be back in the limelight after 18 months away from the sport, apparently itching to make a comeback. Ironically, it seems it may have been the influence of Bernie Ecclestone, the man who was put forward as one of the prime movers behind any return, that dissuaded him.

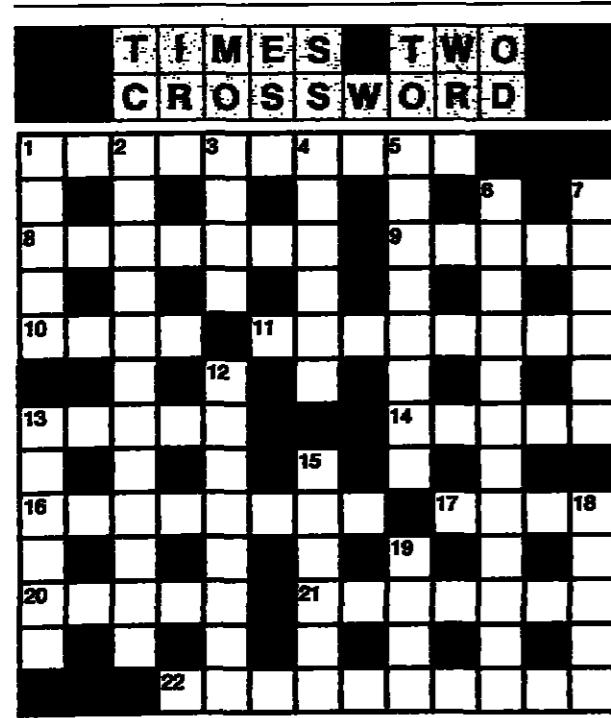
Mansell is believed to have met Ecclestone in London on Monday to discuss his options. After the meeting his enthusiasm had waned considerably and he made Jordan aware of his decision early yesterday. The Irish team may now turn its attention to Martin Brundle, the Italian, Giancarlo Fisichella, or the Frenchman, Jean-Christophe Boullion.

"Nigel Mansell in a Williams could have made a nuisance of himself," Ecclestone said, by way of an epigraph for the career of the 1992 world champion. "But in any other car, he would be really struggling." Mansell, 43, admitted in a statement that he could no longer devote the time necessary for a hectic season to Formula One given his other commitments.

"The idea of the Barcelona test was originally to have some fun," he said, "but my natural competitive instinct took over very quickly and a return to Formula One with Jordan became a serious possibility. However, after consultations with my family and business advisers, I quickly came to realise that my schedule would not permit me to give sufficient time to the Jordan team."

Eddie Jordan, though, still believes Mansell could win races. "He can still be a winner," Jordan said, "but I appreciate the honesty of his decision. The door will always be open for him at Jordan."

Races in doubt, page 41



Botham offers advice to Silverwood, who could make his Test debut today

### Trust hits financial problems

**THE Football Trust** is to turn to the FA Premier League and National Sports Council for help in funding work demanded at grounds by the Taylor Report after encountering a financial crisis.

The Trust has been forced to hold back money it had hoped to earmark for stadium work in the lower divisions of the Football League because of the dramatic effect on its income caused by the National Lottery.

Money from the Trust's main sources — the weekly pool and spot-the-ball competitions — has fallen so sharply that it has only £15 million left to allocate for ground improvements until the year 2000.

Richard Faulkner, the Trust vice-chairman, said: "It is very serious. We had originally anticipated receiving £200 million out of betting duty between 1990 and 2000 — roughly £20 million a year — but we've had to revise that figure down to £165 million of which £150 million has been spent or is out on offer now."

### FA charges Bristol City

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

**BRISTOL CITY**, the Nationwide League second division club, has been charged by the Football Association with failing to control spectators during and after the derby match, which was shown live on television, against Bristol Rovers at Ashton Gate on Sunday. City, who claim they did everything they could to avoid trouble and who will seek a personal hearing in an attempt to clear their name, have 14 days to respond to the charge.

Trouble flared when Rovers equalised in injury time, sparking a mini-pitch invasion by celebrating Rovers supporters among the crowd of 18,674. Two hundred City supporters also left their seats, in another part of the ground, and ran towards their rivals.

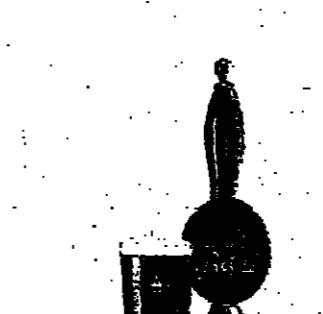
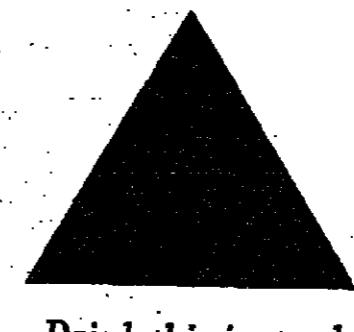
Though stewards and mounted police managed to usher them back further, more alarming disturbances occurred after the game had eventually ended in a 1-1 draw. City supporters again spilled on to the pitch, from the same section of the ground, and a number of Rovers players had to beat a hasty retreat to the dressing-rooms to escape the

points deducted this season after persistent crowd trouble at the Goldstone Ground.

Scott Davidson, the City chairman, has already discussed ways of avoiding future problems during Bristol derbies. They include the issuing of identity cards, the matches possibly being played behind closed doors and the banning of away fans.

Joe Jordan, the City manager, said: "It should be a great day for the West Country, a day for showing everybody what good football there

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Paedophile